

The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief

January
2018

Security Incidents and Access Constraints

Africa

Burkina Faso

15 January 2018: Update: An Australian humanitarian doctor kidnapped on 15 January 2016 continues to be held hostage by an al-Qaeda-linked group. Source: [aOuaga](#)

Central African Republic

09 January 2018: Around Paoua town, Ouham-Pendé prefecture, violent clashes between militants of the Revolution of Justice and the National Movement for the Liberation of the Central African Republic (MNL) led to the closure of all health centres on the outskirts of the town, and MSF suspending activities in seven health centres. Sources: [aBangui](#) and [RFI Africa](#)

17 January 2018: In Nana-Grébizi prefecture, unidentified gunmen intercepted a vehicle belonging to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) whilst en route from Kaga-Bandoro town to Grévai village, stealing mobile and satellite phones. As a result, the ICRC's mission was cancelled. Sources: [Le Réseau des Journalistes pour les Droits de l'Homme \(RJDH\)](#)

26 January 2018: In Ouham prefecture, unidentified masked armed men hijacked a vehicle belonging to the NGO Solidarity International on its route between the towns of Kabo, Moyenne and Sido. The vehicle's driver was kidnapped and released on 05 February. Source: [RJDH I](#), [RJDH II](#)

30 January 2018: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, unidentified armed men stole a car belonging to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) at Bangui-ville market, attacking the driver in the process. Source: [RJDH](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

05 January 2018: In South Kivu province, near the Ubwari Peninsula, an unidentified armed group attacked an Oryx helicopter belonging

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

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to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) while it was conducting a surveillance mission in Fizi territory. The bullet struck the base of the helicopter, but the crew was able to safely return the aircraft to Goma. No motive is known for the attack and no one was injured. Source: [Acualite](#)

Mali

Unspecified date: In Kidal town, a landmine exploded and damaged an armoured vehicle belonging to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), causing no casualties. Source: [Niarela](#)

11 January 2018: In Boni village, Hairé commune, Douentza cercle, Mopti region, unidentified armed individuals opened fire and attacked a contingent of Senegalese MINUSMA staff with an improvised explosive device, causing no casualties. Source: [Bamada](#)

Nigeria

31 January 2018: In Maiduguri, Borno state, two female suicide attackers detonated themselves at Dalori 1 camp for internally displaced people (IDPs), one inside the camp, and the other outside at Dalori quarters. This incident led to the death of at least two people, and the injury of many. Source: [Daily Trust](#)

Somalia

27 January 2018: In Wadajir, Mogadishu, a United Nations (UN) staff member was reportedly fatally shot inside the UN's compound. A recently fired then reinstated security guard allegedly shot the staff member. The motive behind this attack is yet to be confirmed. Source: [AWSD¹](#)

South Sudan

21 January 2018: In Ajuong Thok, Pariang, Unity state, a group of national NGO staff members were attacked by youths. Four staff members were seriously injured requiring hospital care. Reports suggest the motives were related to perceived lack of employment opportunities. Source: [AWSD¹](#)

23 January 2018: In South Sudan, the volatile situation in the country continues to prevent aid groups from penetrating remote parts of Equatoria region, where thousands of people remain trapped with little access to health care and basic services. Sources: [Devex I](#) and [Devex II](#)

25 January 2018: Along Kuajok Mayom road, Warrup state, a UN-contracted convoy was stopped by SPLA soldiers between Ajakuac and Abiemnom who demanded transportation. The UN-contracted driver and assistant refused, resulting in one soldier shooting the assistant. The soldier was reportedly later arrested, and the injured contractor was taken for medical treatment. Source: [AWSD¹](#)

27 January 2018: In South Sudan, the South Sudanese government temporarily suspended the 3,500 USD fee it charges international NGOs, and 500 USD for local NGOs, in a bid to boost humanitarian work in the country. Source: [Reuters](#)

29 December 2017: In Yei River state, restrictions, intimidations and harassment of aid and health workers who plan to deliver services to the needy people in the state continue, leaving many people in rural areas living without access to medical care, nutrition and food aid. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Sudan

19 January 2018: In Zalingei town, Central Darfur state, government militiamen raided the market of Hasahisa camp, prompting residents to stage a protest march against rampant insecurity in the area. Security forces and government militiamen responded by shooting at protesters, causing three deaths and 29

injuries. Sources: [Dabanga Sudan I](#) and [Dabanga Sudan II](#)

20 January 2018: In Zalingei town, Central Darfur state, government militiamen set fire to engines supplying water from Wadi Azum to Hasahisa camp, prompting residents to stage a protest. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

20 January 2018: In Zalingei town, Central Darfur state, a gunfight between IDPs and local youth broke out adjacent to Hasahisa camp. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

21 January 2018: In Zalingei town, Central Darfur state, violence broke out at Hasahisa camp after a policeman clashed with a displaced young woman at Telulo market. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Tanzania

15 January 2018: In Kigoma town, district and region, military training conducted within Nduta camp, caused panic and fear among Burundian refugees. Source: [RPA](#)

Asia and Pacific

Afghanistan

17 January 2018: In Afghanistan, the ICRC is undergoing its most significant downsizing in a generation due to a renewed Taliban insurgency, the emergence of a new Islamic State franchise, and the general insecurity caused by the fragmentation of other militia groups. Source: [The Christian Science Monitor](#)

22 January 2018: In Kabul, unidentified gunmen attacked and kidnapped a UN staff member in the vicinity of Khair Khana area. Source: [Khaama Press](#)

24 January 2018: In Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, one suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the gate of the office of the humanitarian organisation Save the Children in PD3, opening the way for other gunmen to enter and leading to an eight-hour siege. There were roughly 47 Afghan employees inside the building at the time. Six died, including four staff and a security guard, and 27 were injured. Islamic State claimed responsibility for this attack. While the organisation was forced to temporarily suspend activities, Save the Children vowed to resume operations in the country as soon as possible. Sources: [British Broadcasting Corporation \(BBC\)](#), [Concern Worldwide](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters](#), [The Guardian I](#), [The Guardian II](#), [The Guardian III](#), [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), [Tolo News](#) and [Xinhua](#)

25 January 2018: In Afghanistan, the UN suspended the World Food Programme (WFP)'s country director, as well as the deputy executive director of a programme at UNAids, pending a disciplinary process linked to allegations of sexual harassment. Source: [The Guardian](#)

Australia

31 January 2018: In Australia, the Australian government has proposed changes by means of the Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform Bill 2018 to foreign donations rules, which could have a chilling effect on the work of charities by stifling them with unwarranted and unnecessary red-tape. Sources: [Probono Australia](#) and [SBS](#)

Bangladesh

13 January 2018: In Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, a Rohingya refugee stabbed to death another fellow refugee at Kutupalang camp under indiscriminate circumstances. Source: [The Daily Star](#)

13 January 2018: In Ukhaia upzila, Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, unidentified perpetrators shot dead a Rohingya community leader at Thaingkhali camp. On the same night, local refugees caught another

assailant with a pistol as he failed in his attempt to shoot another leader at Balukhali camp 2. Source: [The Daily Star](#)

15 January 2018: In Dhaka, the tax zone-5 office of the National Board of Revenue found that 961 NGOs are registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau, but only 488 have tax files. In response, it sent letters to NGOs registered in the capital, asking them to get the Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN). Source: [The Daily Star](#)

Cambodia

15 January 2018: In Cambodia, the Cambodian government has created a new inter-ministerial committee to manage the activities of international NGOs, intended to monitor their compliance with the controversial Law on Associations and NGOs. Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)

Myanmar

04 January 2018: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on the Myanmar government to give humanitarian agencies unhindered access to IDP camps it has built for Rohingya refugees in Rakhine state, before they could return after fleeing military operations last year. Source: [Reuters](#)

North Korea

29 January 2018: In North Korea, economic restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles are crippling life-saving work by the few aid groups operating in the country, as sanctions on the North Korean government intensify. Two shipping containers full of hygiene kits for hepatitis and tuberculosis patients, sent by the US-based NGO Christian Friends of Korea, have been waiting for weeks in a Chinese port, unable to reach North Korea, as Chinese customs officers consider nail clippers objectionable. Similarly, the NGO American Friends Services Committee is struggling to deliver agricultural equipment, including threshers, compost makers and shovels. Sources: [Associated Press](#) and [International Business Times](#)

Pakistan

09 January 2018: In Pakistan, Pakistani authorities have ordered the operational shutdown of 21 international NGOs, including ActionAid, by 25 January. In addition, 29 international NGOs have been informed that their cases are under review. Sources: [Devex](#) and [The News](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Jordan

10 January 2018: In Rukban, near the Jordan-Syria border, UN agencies resumed aid deliveries to an estimated 50,000 Syrians who remain stranded in that place upon the approval of the Jordanian government. Source: [UN](#)

Libya

13 January 2018: In Sabha city, Fezzan region, unidentified gunmen kidnapped two International Organization for Migration (IOM) staffers – a Spanish-Palestinian woman and a Libyan man – along with a local driver on the road between Sabha and Al-Shatea. The local staffer and driver were later found handcuffed and blindfolded in the trunk of the car. The IOM delegate was released on 16 January. Sources: [Alwasat I](#), [Alwasat II](#), [Alwasat III](#), [Alwasat IV](#) and [Libya Observer](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

07 January 2018: In Hebron governorate, West Bank, Israeli soldiers raided al-Arroub camp, detained a 22-year old for unspecified reasons, and transferred him to an unknown destination. Source: [Wafa](#)

28 January 2018: In Gaza Strip, security forces blocked dozens of women from attending a soccer game taking place at the stadium of Nuseirat refugee camp. Source: [Times of Israel](#)

29 January 2018: In Gaza Strip, a demonstration held by thousands of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) employees against United States (US) aid cuts led to the temporary closure of schools, clinics and food distribution centres. Source: [Reuters](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

03 January 2018: In Maarrat al-Nu'man city, Idlib governorate, airstrikes of unspecified origin hit three times in four days the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)-supported Al-Salam Maternity Hospital, severely damaging it, and forcing the facility to temporarily suspend its operations. Five people were killed, and many more injured. Sources: [BBC](#), [Cable News Network \(CNN\)](#) and [SAMS](#)

03 January 2018: In Misraba, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a LNGO volunteer was reportedly killed in suspected Russian forces bombing while investigating the site of a previous bombing at the same location. Source: [SNHR](#)

07 January 2018: In Mesraba town, Damascus, an NGO volunteer was reportedly killed in an airstrike of unspecified origin while aiding victims of a previous bombing. Source: [AWSD¹](#)

07 January 2018: In Idlib city, a bombing of unidentified origin reportedly occurred in front of a building that houses al Salam Medical and Charity Centre, damaging the centre and equipment. The centre was put out of service. Note: one of the building's floor is reportedly a military base for Ajnad al Qouqaz. Source: [SNHR](#)

08 January 2018: In al Dana city, Idlib governorate, an IED of unspecified origin reportedly detonated near a SCD centre which is adjacent to a Sharia Court, causing minor damage. Source: [SNHR](#)

10 January 2018: In Latamena town, Hama governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired two missiles at SCD centre 3332, injuring a SCD volunteer, damaging the centre and equipment. In addition, an ambulance belonging to the centre was heavily damaged and put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

11 January 2018: In Saraqeb city, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian reportedly warplanes fired missiles on a SCD centre, damaging it. Source: [SNHR](#)

11 January 2018: In Eastern Ghouta region, a Syrian government-imposed blockade continued to deny 400,000 trapped in the enclave access to emergency aid. Source: [The New York Times](#)

15 January 2018: In Ma'saran village, Ma'aret al Nu'man, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired three missiles at Hafsa Um al Mu'mineen IDP cap, damaging tents. Source: [SNHR](#)

18 January 2018: In Ma'ar Debsa village, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired several missiles at an IDP shelter, wounding several IDPs and damaging the shelter. Source: [SNHR](#)

20 January 2018: In Saraqeb city, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile at a SCD centre, partially destroying the building, damaging equipment and furniture. In addition, an ambulance was damaged. As result, the centre was put out of service. The same centre was damaged on 11 January 2018. Source: [SNHR](#)

20 January 2018: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a SCD volunteer was reportedly killed in an artillery shelling by Syrian regime forces at a local market as he was aiding to the wounded from a prior attack.

Source: [SNHR](#)

21 January 2018 In Anabka village, Ifreen city, Aleppo governorate, suspected Turkish warplanes fired a missile at an IDP shelter, heavily destroying the shelter and killing many IDPs. Source: [SNHR](#)

24 January 2018: In Jneidres county, Ifreen city, Aleppo governorate, Turkish army artillery reportedly fired several mortar shells, some of which landed on an ambulance belonging to the Kurdish Red Crescent, damaging it. The ambulance was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 January 2018: Near Atama crossing on the Syria-Turkish border, Self-Management forces reportedly fired mortar shells near al Jazira IDP camp, damaging tenets. Source: [SNHR](#)

Yemen

16 January 2018: In Al Hudaydah city and governorate, a 30-day concession period granted by the Saudi-led coalition to enable the delivery of commercial supplies, which expired on 19 January, has brought only brief relief within the context of a sustained blockade on the country's Red Sea ports, prompting 17 aid agencies to call for the complete and unconditional opening of Hudaydah port beyond the deadline to allow for the uninterrupted flow of food and fuel. Sources: [Danish Refugee Council](#), [Devex](#) and [Reuters](#)

21 January 2018: In Sana'a, unidentified gunmen forced a United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM) employee out of his car, threatened him with a gun, and eventually kidnapped him. His whereabouts are unknown. Source: [The New Arab](#)

The Americas

Colombia

17 January 2018: In Miranda town, Cauca department, Andean region, indigenous authorities detained and questioned a team of five NGO Halo Trust employees for 20 minutes, before informing them not to return to the northern part of the territory. Source: [Canal 1](#)

27 January 2018: In Cauca department, Andean region, the guerrilla National Liberation Army (ELN) allegedly made a potential threat against members of the UN verification mission, a claim the group has denied. Source: [Caracol Radio](#)

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Aid in Danger



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HEALTH
IN CONFLICT**

¹ The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of 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.