

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

December
2016

Security Incidents

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

08 December 2016: In South Kivu Province, militiamen from the group Maheshe abducted a school principal and his son for unknown reasons. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

12 December 2016: In Goma, North Kivu Province, locals attacked a convoy of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) while it was transporting 17 South Sudanese ex-combatants to the Munigi cantonment camp. Source: [RFI Afrique](#)

16 December 2016: In Beni, North Kivu Province, alleged Allied Democratic Forces fighters simultaneously attacked Nadwi village and Camp Garlic in Kambi ya Miba to raid food, medicine and ammunition. The Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and MONUSCO responded. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

16 December 2016: In Abaka village, Ituri Province, a group of militiamen entered a camp for the internally displaced and fired several shots. The assailants, who attempted to loot, were subsequently chased by the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARD). Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

19 December 2016: In Butembo, North Kivu Province, alleged militiamen from the Mayi-Mayi group attacked a MONUSCO contingent, killing one peacekeeper and injuring two others. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

Mali

07 December 2016: In Akharane, Timbuktu Region, a convoy of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali was attacked by an improvised explosive device. No casualties or damages were reported. Source: [aBamako](#)

07 December 2016: In Timbuktu Region, a vehicle belonging to an unspecified non-governmental organisation (NGO) was hijacked. Source: [aBamako](#)

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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24 December 2016: In Gao, Gao Region, three al-Mourabitoun militiamen stormed the home of a French-Swiss female doctor, the founder of the NGO Aide Gao, and kidnapped her and an orphan. A joint French-Malian search and rescue operation has followed. Sources: [AWSD](#), [AllAfrica](#), [News24](#) and [Reuters](#)

Somalia

17 December 2016: In Amara village, Mudug Region, an unidentified gunman shot to death an aid worker from an unspecified organisation for unknown reasons. The alleged killer has subsequently been arrested and detained. Source: [Shabelle News](#)

30 December 2016: In Luuq town, Gedo Region, Somali Government troops stopped trucks packed with medical supplies from World Vision as they were heading to al Shabaab-held villages in Bay Region. Source: [Shabelle News](#)

South Sudan

02 December 2016: In Yei, Yei Rivers State, an NGO ambulance driving on the Yei-Lasu road through Lunguru was tailed by an SPLA patrol, which resulted in both the SPLA and the ambulance being shot at by anti-government forces. The driver of the NGO ambulance was shot in the leg and one of the NGO staff members was kidnapped in the attack. Source: [AWSD](#)

09 December 2016: In Equatoria State, three health workers – one clinical officer, one community health worker and a Congolese refugee – based in Lasu refugee settlement camp from ACROSS were abducted by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLA-IO) in Yei-Lasu road during clashes. SPLA-IO said it had rescued the aid workers from an ambush. The workers were released. Sources: [Radio Tamazuj I](#) and [Radio Tamazuj II](#)

10 December 2016: Near Juba, armed gunmen ambushed a local NGO vehicle on the Juba-Maridi road. One female staff member was shot and the gunmen hijacked their car and stole belongings. Source: [AWSD](#)

15 December 2016: In Juba, the Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers harassed a local aid worker from an unnamed organisation and stole his smart phone at gunpoint in Rock City. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

28 December 2016: In Blue Nile State, fighting flared between the host community and refugees supported by Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLA-North) near the camp of Doro in Maban County, resulting in the death of at least 14 members of the host community. The clashes erupted when a refugee was beaten to death by a local resident, prompting fellow refugees and SPLA-North fighters to retaliate. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Sudan

22 December 2016: In Central Darfur, a clash between four armed thieves and displaced people near the camp of Mukjar led to the deaths of a child and a teacher from a local basic school. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

30 December 2016: In Central Darfur, four gunmen tried to hijack an ambulance belonging to El Fardous Hospital, prompting a police officer passing by the area to resist the attackers. This incident led to the injury of the policeman and the death of a hospital employee's son. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

Date unconfirmed 12 or 19 December 2016: Unknown gunmen kidnapped an employee of the International

Committee of the Red Cross on the highway leading to Mazar from Kunduz. Several national staff members were also taken but have since been released. Sources: [AWSD](#) and [Tolo News](#)

India

05 December 2016: In Odisha State, the founder of Prishan Foundation has been sentenced to 12 months in prison and ordered to pay 3,500 British pounds. The British aid worker was accused of manslaughter after a girl from her orphanage disappeared. Source: [Techno Examiner](#)

06 December 2016: In Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir State, unspecified assailants targeted New Light School at Tapper Kreeri in an arson attack, causing minor damages to it. Source: [Tribune India](#)

Papua New Guinea

24 December 2016: On the island of Manus, asylum seekers rioted at the East Lorengau processing centre to protest against the lack of medical services in the camp. The riot was brought under control by the police and immigration officers. Source: [PNG Facts](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Iraq

08 December 2016: In Mosul, Iraqi soldiers briefly seized Salam Hospital, which has been used as a base by the Islamic State in the neighbourhood of Wahda. The same troops were forced to withdraw a day later after being attacked by six suicide bombers and heavy fire. A building inside the hospital complex was struck by coalition warplanes, from which extremists were firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Source: [Reuters](#)

22 December 2016: In Mosul, two mortars of an unspecified origin killed four local aid workers from an unnamed organisation whilst distributing aid in two separate incidents. This incident also led to the death of seven civilians and the injury of 40 more. Sources: [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#) and [The Washington Post](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

04 December 2016: In Kafr Nabbol, Idlib Governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near Al Khatib Hospital, damaging the building and equipment. Source: [SNHR](#)

04 December 2016: In Kafr Nabbol, Idlib Governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near Kafr Nabbol Surgical Hospital (formerly Al Orient hospital), damaging the building and equipment. Source: [SNHR](#)

04 December 2016: In Al Ma'adi, Madaya, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syrian helicopters reportedly dropped a barrel bomb near M2 Makeshift Hospital, partially destroying the building and a fuel warehouse. An ambulance was also destroyed. Source: [SNHR](#)

05 December 2016: In western Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, rebel shelling targeting a government-controlled area reportedly killed one female nurse and wounded two Russian medics working in a mobile field hospital. An injured nurse later died from the injuries. Sources: [Associated Press](#) and [Reuters](#)

05 December 2016: In Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, an aerial bomb attack near the Médecins Sans Frontières-supported Al-Marj clinic led to the complete destruction of two ambulances belonging to the same medical facility. Source: [Doctors without Borders](#)

05 December 2016: In Binnesh city, Idlib Governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at a pharmacy, partially destroying the building and damaging equipment. The pharmacy was put out of

service. Source: [SNHR](#)

05 December 2016: In Binnesh city, Idlib Governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at the Islamic Medical Complex, partially destroying the building and damaging the pharmacy. The medical centre was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

05 December 2016: In Binnesh city, Idlib Governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near an ambulance belonging to Sham Aiding Network, damaging it. The ambulance was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

05 December 2016: In Madaya, Rif Dimashq Governorate, two male Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) volunteers were reportedly killed by a barrel bomb dropped by Syrian helicopters. Both were killed whilst delivering emergency aid to victims from a previous bombing. Sources: [SNHR](#) and [AWSD](#)

05 December 2016: In Madaya, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syrian helicopters reportedly dropped four barrel bombs near the last remaining medical point in the town, partially destroying the building and equipment. The medical point was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

09 December 2016: In Kafr Nobbol, Idlib Governorate, Syrian forces warplanes reportedly fired missiles at an SCD centre in Joni, partially destroying the building and partially damaging furniture and an SCD ambulance. Source: [SNHR](#)

10 December 2016: In Al Ferdous, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, a male paramedic from Sham Aiding Network was reportedly killed by a barrel bomb dropped by Syrian helicopters. Source: [SNHR](#)

10 December 2016: Near Al Dawa area, Tadmour city, Homs Governorate, a female nurse from the city's National hospital was reportedly killed amid Syrian forces artillery shelling and machine gun fire at internally displaced people (IDP). Source: [SNHR](#)

11 December 2016: In Ma'aret Al Nu'man, Idlib Governorate, Syrian forces warplanes reportedly fired missiles near an SCD ambulance, thereby partially damaging it. Source: [SNHR](#)

11 December 2016: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq Governorate, a media activist for Centre 250, which is affiliated to the SCD in Douma, was reportedly killed by missiles fired by Syrian warplanes, as SCD volunteers were delivering emergency aid to victims from a previous bombing. Sources: [SNHR](#) and [AWSD](#)

15 December 2016: Near Al Ramousa crossing, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, pro-Syrian Government forces opened fired from machine guns at an SCD ambulance evacuating civilians. Three people were injured and the ambulance was partially damaged. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [SNHR](#)

15 December 2016: Near Al Ramousa crossing, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, pro-Syrian Government forces opened fired from machine guns at an SCD emergency services vehicle, injuring an SCD team leader. The emergency services vehicle was partially damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

15 December 2016: In Idlib, Idlib Governorate, a first aid volunteer from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) was reportedly killed by missiles fired by Syrian warplanes near the SARC centre (formerly Carlton Hotel). Several others were also injured. The building was partially damaged. Sources: [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#) and [SNHR](#)

15 December 2016: In Mazrat'at Um Anoun, Idlib, Idlib Governorate, unspecified armed gunmen stopped and opened fired randomly at a SARC team that was travelling to the organisation's warehouse. The team members were reportedly forced out of their vehicle. The vehicle and equipment were taken. Source: [SNHR](#)

15 December 2016: In Idlib, Idlib Governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at an emergency centre supported by Violet Organisation, a local NGO, partially destroying the building, equipment and furniture. The emergency centre was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

15 December 2016: In Otaba town, Al Marj, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at a makeshift hospital, partially destroying the building, equipment and furniture. The medical point was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

18 December 2016: In western Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, rebel fighters reportedly set fire to buses that intended to carry evacuees from the last rebel-held districts of eastern Aleppo under the ceasefire deal, which the rebels opposed. Source: [The New York Times](#)

19 December 2016: In Al Wa'er, Homs, Homs Governorate, Syrian forces reportedly fired explosive cylinders near an SCD centre, damaging the building. An ambulance was also damaged and put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

20 December 2016: A doctor from Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq Governorate, who was arrested by Syrian forces on 02 October 2016, was reported dead inside a Syrian detention centre. Source: [SNHR](#)

20 December 2016: In Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syrian forces reportedly fired a missile near an ambulance belonging to Centre 270, supported by the SCD. An SCD volunteer was injured and the ambulance was partially destroyed. Source: [SNHR](#)

22 December 2016: At Al Ashrafiya checkpoint, near Wadi Barada, Damascus, a male anaesthetist was reportedly killed by Syrian forces who opened fire with machine guns after having granted him passage. Source: [SNHR](#)

23 December 2016: In Kafr Zita, Hama Governorate, Syrian forces reportedly fired missiles near Centre 109 – an engineering centre specialising in weapon's disposal supported by the SCD. The building was partially destroyed, while furniture and an emergency service vehicle were partially damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

23 December 2016: In Ain Al Fija town, Wadi Barada, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syrian helicopters reportedly dropped barrel bombs on Ain Al Fija Medical Centre, causing a fire. The medical centre was put out of service. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 December 2016: In Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq Governorate, an armed opposition group, Jaish Al Islam, released a statement via the Revolutionary Medical Office of Eastern Ghouta, announcing the death of a doctor from Nahta town, Daraa Governorate. The group had arrested the doctor two years ago. The doctor reportedly died in the bombing of a tunnel. Source: [SNHR](#)

27 December 2016: In Al Uthmaniya village, Aleppo Governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles near an SCD centre, injuring two volunteers, partially destroying the building and damaging an SCD fire truck. Source: [SNHR](#)

27 December 2016: In Idlib, Idlib Governorate, unspecified armed gunmen stopped a SARC service vehicle and reportedly forced the driver out. The group seized the vehicle. Source: [SNHR](#)

27 December 2016: In Idlib, Idlib Governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles at the SARC centre (formerly Carlton Hotel), partially damaging two SARC ambulances, the centre’s fence and garage. Source: [SNHR](#)

29 December 2016: The Syrian Army and allies targeted and damaged water supplies from the Wadi Barada and Ain al-Fija springs, cutting off four million people in Damascus from safe drinking water. Source: [Reuters](#)

29 December 2016: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near Centre 200 supported by the SCD, partially damaging an ambulance. Source: [SNHR](#)

30 December 2016: In Helfaya city, Hama Governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at a pharmacy, partially damaging the building. Source: [SNHR](#)

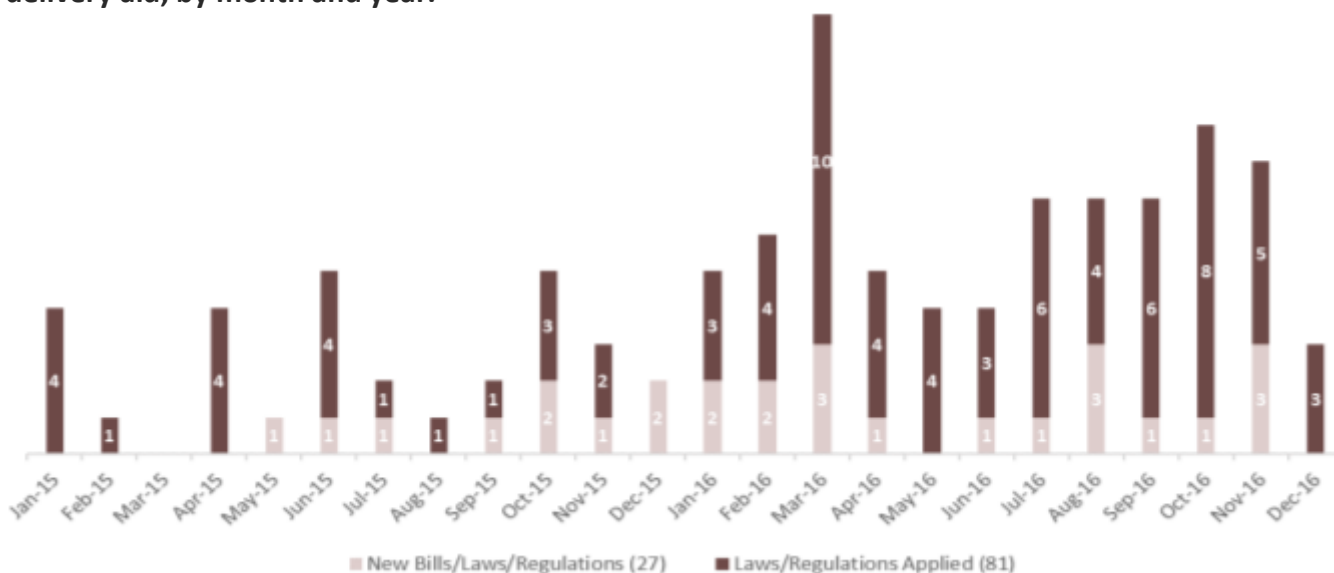
The Americas

Honduras

02 December 2016: In Juticalpa, Olancho Department, a UN national staff member sustained multiple gunshot wounds when armed assailants assaulted him and a companion at their home. His companion died on the scene and he is in critical condition. Source: [AWSO](#)

Two Year Trend Reporting: January 2015 – December 2016

Open source reported events where laws and administrative decisions affected aid agencies’ ability to delivery aid, by month and year.



The number of open source reports mentioning new laws or administrative decisions regulating non-governmental activities, discussed or adopted, doubled in 2016 compared 2015 (18 compared to 9). The number of times open sources reported that a law or regulation was applied to the activities of a non-governmental organisation in a way that was deemed worth a news story rose from 21 in 2015 to 60 in 2016, according to Insecurity Insight’s monitoring of open sources. While counting the times that open sources mention laws or regulations in relation to NGO work is a very imprecise way of describing the changing context of humanitarian space, the fact that the media more frequently report concerns about administrative measures suggests that this issue needs to be better understood in contextual detail.

Security-related access constraints

Africa

Angola

27 December 2016: The Israeli Government has hinted that it will suspend all development aid to Angola in response to the latter's support for the UN resolution condemning the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Source: [Mercado](#)

Kenya

20 December 2016: The Kenyan agency that regulates NGOs announced that it has terminated the operations of the United States (US)-funded International Foundation for Electoral Systems across the country, claiming that the agency is not a registered organisation and that its foreign employees were working illegally. Source: [News24](#)

Niger

01 December 2016: A series of Boko Haram attacks in southeast Niger has been hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to more than 200,000 people who had fled their homes. Source: [TRF](#)

Nigeria

12 December 2016: A Nigerian Senate report revealed that eight million US dollars in humanitarian assistance meant for the north-eastern regions of Nigeria have been misallocated or disappeared. No further information is available. Source: [The New York Times](#)

South Sudan

09 December 2016: The Norwegian Refugee Council's South Sudan Country Director was expelled from South Sudan following detention by the National Security for more than 24 hours. Source: [Norwegian Refugee Council](#)

15 December 2016: Another senior aid worker from the Norwegian Refugee Council was forced by the local authorities to leave South Sudan with no formal explanation. Source: [Radio Tamazuji](#)

19 December 2016: The South Sudanese Government has announced a plan to close down the United Nations (UN) Protection of Civilian sites in the capital Juba, currently home to tens of thousands of IDPs. Source: [Radio Tamazuji](#)

Asia

China

20 December 2016: An unspecified number of NGOs have decided to shut down after the Chinese Government made extensive changes to a law regulating foreign organisations for fear of inadvertently breaking the broad new rules and suffering consequences. Source: [Reuters](#)

Pakistan

11 December 2016: In the Punjabi cities of Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi, practitioners closed down outpatient departments at most public hospitals to protest against the government's central induction policy, preventing thousands of patients from accessing medical assistance. Source: [The Express Tribune](#)

Myanmar

31 December 2016: Myanmar authorities announced that they cannot accept aid shipments carrying food

and medical supplies for Rohingya Muslims from the Malaysian Advisory Council of Islamic Organisations, set to leave on 10 January 2017, without the official permission of the Government of Myanmar. The flotilla organisers claimed that they had applied for permission to enter Myanmar with the competent authorities but did not receive a reply. Sources: [Eleven Myanmar](#) and [Reuters](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

01-03 December 2016: Relief actors were unable to extend any assistance to the 5,000 IDPs in eastern Aleppo city, Aleppo Governorate, owing to the lack of humanitarian access there. Source: [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

14 December 2016: In eastern Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, artillery shells from pro-Syrian Government forces disrupted an evacuation operation, thereby preventing families, medical workers, insurgent fighters and wounded people from vacating rebel-held neighbourhoods under a ceasefire deal brokered by Russia, Turkey and the Syrian opposition. Sources: [Reuters](#), [The Guardian](#) and [The New York Times](#)

23 December 2016: In Al Panorama Square, Damascus, Syrian forces reportedly raided Kamal Arnous Hospital and declared the hospital's fourth floor a military centre for government forces. Source: [SNHR](#)

The Americas

United States of America

17 December 2016: President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines has threatened to burn down the New York headquarters of the UN after he was asked, whilst on a trip to the Philippine city of Zamboanga, about the country's wave of killings and alleged human rights violations. Source: [OZ](#)

