Aid in Danger News Brief

16-31 October 2026

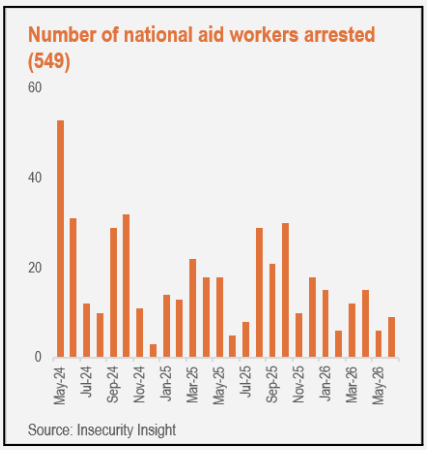
Protection of humanitarian and UN personnel, premises and assets

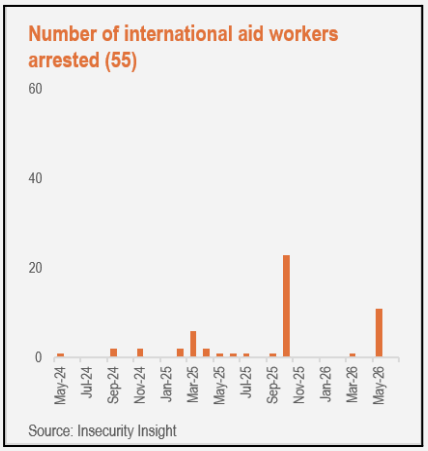
In the 29 months since the adoption of the UN 2730 resolution, Insecurity Insight recorded 1,571 attacks and acts of violence against aid workers from the UN, humanitarian and civil society, resulting in 866 aid workers killed, 924 injured, 484 kidnapped and 748 arrested. These acts of violence underscore the need for strengthened collective action and improved security risk mitigation strategies to enhance aid worker safety and security and to provide crisis and post-incident support to affected individuals and their families.

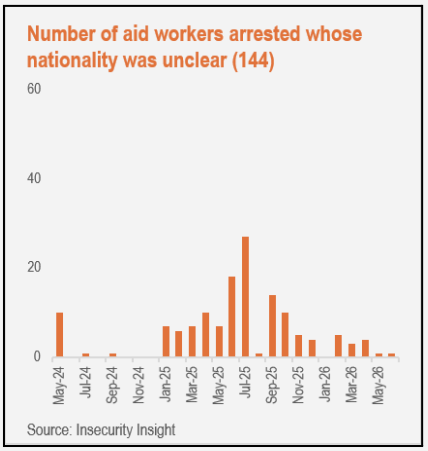
The criminalisation of aid and the growing risks to aid workers

The arrest of 748 aid workers in 356 incidents across 29 countries between May 2024 and October 2026 points to a concerning pattern of criminalisation of humanitarian action. With 76% of arrests concentrated in just five countries - Myanmar, the State of Palestine, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen - the figures point to aid-hostile environments in which humanitarian operations are increasingly difficult. Arrested aid workers are often threatened, interrogated and beaten while detained, and in some cases tortured. Nine aid workers have died in detention while fewer than 30% have been reported freed, raising questions about the fate and treatment of those still detained and efforts to secure their release.

Recorded aid worker arrests globally since the adoption of UNSC resolution 2730, May 2024 - October 2026







The figures also expose a stark disparity in who bears these risks. Of those aid workers whose nationality was reported, 91% were national or local staff. Often closest to affected communities and central to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, local aid workers are frequently left with less visibility, protection and leverage when they face allegations or arrest.

Beyond the immediate threat to life and liberty, arrests can have far-reaching consequences for humanitarian operations. The threat of detention can create a climate of fear and intimidation, erode trust, constrain staff movement and decision-making, and undermine the ability of organisations to operate independently. For those arrested and their colleagues, the experience of arrest and detention can have a profound psychological impact, regardless of its duration, contributing to trauma, anxiety and lasting concerns about personal safety. Uncertainty surrounding the circumstances of arrest, the fate of those detained and the prospects of release can further compound these effects, raising wider concerns about the personal risks and sacrifices associated with humanitarian work.

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2026. The criminalisation of aid and the growing risks to humanitarian personnel, Aid in Danger News Brief, 16-31 October 2026. Geneva: Insecurity Insight. https://bit.ly/16-31Oct2026Aid

Download the **data** (updated every Monday). Insecurity Insight continuously backdates data, as such, numbers may change if or when further information is made available. For data enquiries, please **get in touch**.

Monitoring of UN Security Council Resolution 2730: In May 2024, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution **2730** with 14 votes and one abstention. The resolution, covering the protection of humanitarian and UN and associated personnel and their premises and assets, was co-sponsored by 97 UN Member States, recalling the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977. In September 2024, the **Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel** was signed by more than 100 states reaffirming their commitment to take action and uphold the principles of international law designed to ensure the protection of humanitarian personnel.

Aid in Danger incidents affecting aid agencies and their staff and impact on programmes

Incidents of threats and violence affecting aid workers, aid delivery and aid impact supporting aid agencies in risk mitigation and safety and security measures when implementing programmes. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of aid delivery. Insecurity Insight continues to update data and figures may change. Updated data includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies.

Africa

Central African Republic

20 October 2026: In Haute-Kotto prefecture, Central region, an NGO staff member received verbal threats from an armed individual while carrying out child protection activities. **Source: OCHA Situation Report No. 91**

21 October 2026: In Haute-Kotto prefecture, Central region, a staff member from a humanitarian organisation was threatened by armed men. Community members and staff from a United Nations agency were also subjected to similar threats. **Source: OCHA Situation Report No. 91**

21 October 2026: In Haute-Kotto prefecture, Central region, staff from a United Nations agency were threatened by armed men. **Source: OCHA Situation Report No. 91**

Chad

20 October 2026: In Bamna town and locality, North Darfur state, two humanitarian volunteers and three refugees were killed in a drone strike carried out by an unidentified conflict party, which injured an unspecified number of others. A complete communications blackout hampered efforts to monitor the situation and check on the wounded. **Sources: Darfur 24, Dostor and Sudan Tribune**

Ethiopia

17 October 2026: In the southern east Tigray region, a Relief Society of Tigray (Rest) warehouse was reportedly destroyed by an ENDF drone strike. **Source: Personal Communication**

21 October 2026: In Tigray region, an NGO warehouse was damaged and supplies were lost after it was hit by a drone strike by an unidentified conflict party. **Source: UN News**

South Sudan

16 October 2026: At Adok port, Leer county, Unity state, a clearly marked boat belonging to a UN agency was commandeered by armed opposition forces. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

18 October 2026: In Bor South county, Jonglei State, an LNGO compound was attacked by armed criminals, killing one person and injuring two others. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

19 October 2026: In Ulang County, Upper Nile State, humanitarian partners operating in Barmach Payam were ordered by authorities affiliated with the opposition to relocate to Rimnyang Payam within three days, citing security concerns. Following OCHA's engagement, the relocation order was withdrawn. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

19 October 2026: In Pier town, Uror county, Jonglei state, an INGO relocated staff due to deteriorating security linked to military operations involving opposition forces and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

20 October 2026: In Uror county, Jonglei state, MSF relocated three international staff as a precautionary measure following fighting between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army-in-Opposition (SPLA-iO), while approximately 50 national staff reportedly left the area to join their families. MSF also suspended operations at the Pieri Primary Health Care Centre and discharged patients amid concerns over further violence,. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

22 October 2026: In Motot (Mwot Tot) town, Uror county, Jonglei state, humanitarian partners temporarily suspended activities following fighting between the SSPDF and the SPLA-iO. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

26 October 2026: In Rubkona county, Unity state, five fuel trucks carrying supplies for humanitarian operations in Jamjang, Pariang county, were stranded at a checkpoint after the drivers' identification documents and waybills were reportedly confiscated by an unidentified conflict party, disrupting the delivery of critical fuel supplies. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

As reported 30 October 2026: Near Mayom county, Unity state, a UN agency convoy travelling from Jamjang in Pariang County to Juba was delayed for more than 24 hours at a checkpoint by an unidentified conflict party. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

As reported 30 October 2026: In Central Equatoria state, a senior INGO staff member was ordered to leave the country within 24 hours and subsequently departed. **Source: OCHA Humanitarian Update**

Sudan

19 October 2026: At Amit (Ostrich) border market, north of the disputed Abyei region, UNICEF's buildings were damaged by a SAF drone strike. **Source: Sudan War Monitor**

20 October 2026: In the Bamena market area, Tina locality, North Darfur state, two volunteers from the Tana Emergency Response Rooms Council were killed by an RSF drone strike, along with three IDPs, and an unspecified number of people were injured. **Sources: Sudan War Monitor and UN News**

Asia

Afghanistan

21 October 2026: In Bamyan city and province, a UNAMA security officer was shot and injured while travelling in his car by unidentified armed perpetrators. **Sources: Eurasia Review and Khaama**

28 October 2026: Near the Torkham border crossing, Nangarhar province, a Pakistani humanitarian worker was injured while supporting families in the area during clashes. **Source: UN News**

Europe

Ukraine

As reported on 16 October 2026: In undisclosed locations, a humanitarian office and a food warehouse were damaged amid Russian strikes on the Donetsk and Kharkiv regions. **Source: UN News**

18 October 2026: In Kherson city, raion and oblast, a building that houses the Ukrainian Red Cross Kherson Regional Branch was damaged by a Russian airstrike, damaging windows, doors,

the ceiling, furniture and office equipment. **Sources: UN News**, **UN News Ukraine** and **Interfax Ukraine**

19 October 2026: In Zaporizhzhia oblast, a clearly marked humanitarian evacuation vehicle was seriously damaged by an attack. The vehicle belonged to an association that is supported by the Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund. **Source: UN News**

21 October 2026: In Kramatorsk city and raion, Donetsk oblast, a Proliska Humanitarian Mission armored evacuation vehicle was struck and destroyed by a Russian FPV drone strike during a humanitarian mission. **Sources: Kyiv Post and UN News**

22 October 2026: In Kharkiv city, raion and oblast, the building housing Mission Kharkiv NGO was damaged by a Russian strike, damaging an unspecified number of aid delivery vehicles and a generator that supplied their office. **Sources: Mission Kharkiv and UN News**

Middle East and North Africa

State of Palestine

Gaza

17 October 2026: In Rafah governorate, a security point in the vicinity of the Red Cross Field Hospital was struck by an Israeli drone, killing a Palestinian and injuring an unspecified number of others. Attacks near health facilities increase insecurity, disrupting the safe access of patients, staff, transport, and essential supplies. **Source: Quds News Network I**

As reported on 19 October 2026: Across the Gaza Strip, the WFP suspended monthly food assistance to approximately 500,000 Palestinians due to a lack of funding, reducing the number of beneficiaries from 1.6 million to 1.1 million. WFP also halved food rations, suspended cash assistance to 75,000 families and reduced daily hot meals from 250,000 to 150,000. **Sources: Quds News Network and WAFA**

20 October 2026: In Khan Yunis city and governorate, a UN convoy was forced to change its route after small-arms fire by an unidentified armed group struck nearby. **Source: UN OCHA News**

21 October 2026: In Al Rimal neighbourhood, Gaza city and governorate, a person riding an electric bicycle and a group of people passing near the UNRWA headquarters were struck by an Israeli drone, killing two people and injuring an unspecified number of others. **Source: WAFA**

23 October 2026: In Deir al-Balah city and governorate, a UNOPS guesthouse hosting UNOPS staff was hit by multiple small arms rounds from an unidentified conflict party. **Source: UN News, UN News I and UNOPS**

As reported on 26 October 2026: In the Gaza Strip, an unspecified number of UNOPS drivers were detained from their convoy at a checkpoint, likely by Israeli forces. **Sources: UN News I and UNOPS**

As reported on 26 October 2026: In the Gaza Strip, a UNOPS team reported explosions in their vicinity. It is unclear if the explosions affected a convoy or premises. **Sources: UN News I and UNOPS**

28 October 2026: In Khan Younis city and governorate, a UN warehouse was damaged by flying debris from an airstrike that hit the nearby area. **Source: UN News**

West Bank

15 October 2026: In an undisclosed village, southern West Bank, an MSF worker was injured by Israeli settlers with a hand-sized rock launched by a slingshot in the evening. A group of approximately 20 settlers had reportedly descended from the nearby hills to attack residents, and more settlers arrived later. The settlers were armed with batons, rifles, stun grenades and

slingshots. Due to road closures and access restrictions, the worker could not be reached by ambulance and had to be transported by private vehicle to meet an ambulance. **Sources: MSF and UN OCHA OPT**

26 October 2026: In the Al-Jalda area, Hebron city and governorate, Israeli forces detained a Hebron Municipality vehicle and assaulted its crew while they were distributing humanitarian aid to besieged and displaced Palestinian families. **Source: WAFA**

The Americas

Haiti

27 October 2026: In Port-au-Prince city and arrondissement, West department, two Haitian Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) aid workers were killed by unidentified perpetrators in the evening. **Source: Norwegian Refugee Council**

As reported on 28 October 2026: In Port-au-Prince city and arrondissement, West department, an unspecified number of MSF mobile clinics were forced to suspend activities due to armed conflict in the neighbourhoods they operate in. An unspecified number of MSF staff also left their homes. **Sources: Doctors Without Borders and Dostor**

Colombia

19 October 2026: In Linares municipality, Narino department, a humanitarian convoy of the Governorship of Nariño and the Mayor's Office of Linares was attacked by rifle-fire from unknown armed perpetrators while travelling towards the village of Bella Florida, at around 2100hrs. The team was unarmed and were carrying white flags as a sign of a peaceful humanitarian mission. **Sources: SOS Llorente Nariño and Vanguardia**

Mexico

23 October 2026: On Hernán Cortés Avenue, San Luis Potosí city and state, a Red Cross ambulance was attacked with gunfire by unidentified armed perpetrators at night. **Sources: SLP News Agency and Personal Communication**

About Insecurity Insight

Insecurity Insight aims to enable a world in which civilians are protected from violence in armed conflict, and in which local, national, and international civilian organisations are empowered to mitigate the consequences of violence by effectively delivering assistance, healthcare, educational opportunities, and protection to people affected by armed conflict. As a H2H (humanitarian to humanitarian) association, Insecurity Insight supports the work of aid agencies and other civil society organisations by providing publicly available information and analysis for evidence-based policies.

Insecurity Insight applies a comprehensive data quality assurance process to maintain the accuracy, credibility, reliability and ethical integrity of its datasets verifying data credibility and applying privacy and security policies while ensuring transparency, accountability and understandability. Help support our work by sharing this resource. Copy and paste this link: https://bit.ly/16-31Oct2026Aid

Other resources

Past briefs: **01-15 October**; **16-30 September**; **01-15 September**: **19-31 August**; **05-18 August**; **22 July-04 August**; **08-21 July**; **24 June-07 July**; **10-23 June**; **27 May-09 June**; **13-26 May**; **29 April - 12 May**; **All**

Security information incident management (SIIM) is the process of collecting and using information about safety- and security-related incidents that affect aid organisations to ensure staff safety and access to beneficiaries. Efficient and effective SIIM improves an aid organisation's ability to access affected populations by improving the safety and security of its staff. This **SIIM portal** by Insecurity Insight provides guidance and tools for aid organisations seeking to improve their understanding of and approach to SIIM. SIIM supports effective decision-making in the areas of policy, finance, operations and SRM. Resources include:

- Interactive **roadmap**, **handbooks, and toolkits**, **mobile guides**, **podcasts** and more.
- Available in **Arabic**, **English**, **French** and **Spanish**

Armed drones are an escalating threat in humanitarian settings, with their use expected to grow. Adapting to the growing threat of drones means rethinking security risk measures in high-risk contexts. This practical guide by Insecurity Insight brings together current best practice and is available in **Arabic**, **Burmese**, **English**, **Spanish** and **French**. Individual resources:

- Outside When a Drone is Spotted: **Arabic**; **Burmese**; **English**; **French**; **Spanish**
- Inside a Building During a Drone Attack: **Arabic**; **Burmese**; **English**; **French**; **Spanish**
- Responding to Drone Attacks on Aid Work: **Arabic**, **Burmese**; **English**; **French**; **Spanish**
- Traveling in High-Risk Areas: What to Know About Drones: **Arabic**; **Burmese**; **English**; **French**; **Spanish**

Adapted for the protection of health services based on case studies on Myanmar in **English** and **Burmese**.

Support for aid workers

Proper Support is an independent non-profit that helps aid organisations, staff, and families navigate the complex landscape of post-incident support. Drawing on experience from dozens of complex cases, Proper Support provides training, workshops, and policy engagement to strengthen duty-of-care practices and post-incident response.

Humanitarian work has become more dangerous in recent years. Attacks against humanitarian personnel, whether deliberate or not, continue and require joint efforts to address them. **Protect Aid Workers** is a rapid-response mechanism for aid workers and their immediate families who have suffered critical incidents such as injury, kidnapping, arrest and more.