

The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief

July
2017

Security Incidents

Africa

Central African Republic

04 July 2017: In Kaga-Bandoro town, Nana-Grébizi prefecture, an unidentified armed group attacked the premises of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), threatened six staff at gunpoint, and looted all goods and money on the site, including personal items and passports, before fleeing the scene. Nobody was hurt in this incident. Staff were temporarily relocated to the United Nations (UN) base. Source: [VOA](#)

05 July 2017: In Bangui, around 50 young people attacked the military base of the MINUSCA Bangladeshi contingent at Bangui airport. Source: [RJDH](#)

12 July 2017: In Zemio town, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, two armed men entered a hospital hosting IDPs, and threatened a family before opening fire. They shot a baby in the head, killing it. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) subsequently suspended its operations, and withdrew staff from the area. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

16 July 2017: In Bria town, Haute-Kotto prefecture, a national staff member of an unspecified non-governmental organisation (NGO) was fatally shot while transporting a sick person to the local hospital. Source: [AWSD](#)¹ (The location is unconfirmed due to conflicting information)

18 July 2017: In Bria town, Haute-Kotto prefecture, ex-Seleka fighters from the Popular Front for the Central African Renaissance killed one national staff member of an unnamed NGO in unspecified circumstances. Source: [AWSD](#)¹

20 July 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, a group of suspected anti-Balaka fighters attacked the camp of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and killed a Moroccan peacekeeper. Sources: [Juene Afrique](#), [Reuters](#) and [UN News Centre](#)

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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21 July 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, anti-Balaka fighters attacked a patrol of peacekeepers in unspecified circumstances. No further details are available. Source: [Juene Afrique](#)

23 July 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, suspected anti-Balaka fighters attacked a Moroccan contingent from the MINUSCA as they were escorting humanitarian trucks carrying water tanks, killing one peacekeeper and injuring three more. Sources: [RDJH](#), [Reuters](#) and [VOA](#)

23 July 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, anti-Balaka fighters attempted to seize a cathedral housing internally displaced Muslims. No further details are available. Source: [Reuters](#)

25 July 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, suspected anti-Balaka fighters ambushed a Moroccan contingent from the MINUSCA as they were stocking up on water to deliver to the population, killing two peacekeepers and injuring another. Sources: [UN News Centre](#) and [VOA](#)

29 July 2017: In Batanfogo town, unidentified assailants looted residences of unspecified humanitarian organisations. Source: [Africa News](#)

31 July 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, unspecified armed groups kidnapped aid workers from an unspecified organisation, and robbed churches. Source: [Caj News Africa](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

06 July 2017: In North Kivu province, unidentified armed men believed to be members of the military prosecutor's office in Kirumba city murdered a researcher and founding member of the International Circle for the Defense of Human Rights, Peace and the Environment (CIDHOPE) outside his home. Sources: [Front Line Defenders](#) and [Radio Okapi](#)

11 July 2017: *Update*: Investigations into the killing of two UN experts in March 2017 have led to 11 new arrests. Source: [The Seattle Times](#)

21 July 2017: In Kinshasa, suspected members of the Republican Guard riding four jeeps entered the complex of the University of Kinshasa and fired shots. The police claimed that they were pursuing the mind behind a series of bloody events that have taken place across the capital in recent months. Sources: [La Libre](#) and [Media Congo](#)

30 July 2017: In Bukavu city, South Kivu province, Congolese security forces fired teargas and live ammunition around the headquarters of an unspecified civil society organisation, as demonstrators took to the streets in several major cities across the country, calling upon the government to publish the electoral calendar. Source: [RFI Africa](#)

Guinea

27 July 2017: In Conakry, eight Guinean peacekeepers previously deployed to Kidal region, Mali, as part of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), were convicted of detention and drug trafficking by the Permanent Military Tribunal of Conakry. Among them, two were acquitted, whereas the others were sentenced to varying degrees. Source: [Africa Guinee](#)

Ivory Coast

15-16 July 2017: In Abidjan, demonstrations took place around several neighbourhoods against the country representative of UN Women for constantly dismissing her domestic workers and refusing to pay them. Source: [Koaci](#)

30 July 2017: In the capital Abidjan, armed bandits broke into a health centre in Abobo suburb and stole unspecified valuable items. Source: [Koaci](#)

Mali

02 July 2017: *Update*: The Al Qaeda-linked group Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (NIM) released a proof-of-life video showing six foreign hostages – South African, Australian, Romanian, Swiss, Colombian and French – held captive for years. Sources: [aBamako](#) and [Los Angeles Times](#)

18 July 2017: *Update*: In Bamako, the Beninois president of the NGO Pan-African Emergency was detained for 30 minutes by INTERPOL at Bamako airport, in what he claims to be a manoeuvre of Western powers to intimidate him for his quest to raise awareness of African youth. Source: [Benin Web TV](#)

Nigeria

23 July 2017: In Borno state, three suicide bombers detonated themselves separately in Dalori I and Dalori II camps for the internally displaced, and on the premises of the University of Maiduguri, killing six people, and injuring 17 more. Source: [The Daily Times](#)

Somalia

16 July 2017: Near Baidoa city, Bay region, al Shabaab fighters kidnapped five male and three female humanitarian workers from an unspecified organisation, and demanded 200,000 USD for their release. The victims were freed on 24 July, after the kidnappers received weapons as ransom. Sources: [Anadolu Agency](#) and [Garowe Online](#)

21 July 2017: On the outskirts of Beledweyne city, Hiiraan region, unidentified gunmen abducted four aid workers from Hello Trust and an unspecified NGO. Source: [Somalia Live Update](#)

South Sudan

4 July 2017: In Juba, unidentified gunmen seized four local and four foreign employees of a private company contracted to an unspecified NGO, whilst drilling for water outside a Protection of Civilians site. They were released unharmed on 02 July, following negotiations led by South Sudan's security services. Source: [Associated Press](#)

Date unspecified: In Torit town, Eastern Equatoria state, a threatening letter was found posted in a compound of an unspecified NGO, demanding staff from the greater Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal states to vacate their jobs. Source: [OCHA](#)

Date unspecified: In Mankien community, Unity state, the County Commissioner issued a threat letter, demanding that humanitarian staff from other areas leave. This was followed by a further threatening letter from a group proclaiming to be Youth of Greater Bul counties. Source: [OCHA](#)

06 July 2017: In Pagak county, three employees of Montrose, a firm contracted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to conduct education surveys, were forced to flee fighting in Mathiang village alongside other humanitarian workers, and were detained upon arrival in Pagak area. Their exact location remains yet to be established. On 12 July, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) dismissed claims that they have detained the humanitarians, as alleged. Sources: [OCHA](#), [Radio Tamazuj](#), [Reuters](#) and [Sudan Tribune](#)

09 July 2017: In Pibor town, Jonglei state, a group of unidentified men forcibly entered the compound of an unspecified international NGO, and assaulted a security guard. The victim was treated at a hospital and discharged. Source: [AWSD](#)¹

13 July 2017: In Pibor town, Boma state, several armed robbers attacked an MSF clinic, injured two employees, threatened some workers with guns, and stole office equipment. Source: [Star Tribune](#)

13 July 2017: In Pibor town, Boma state, more than a dozen aid workers were saved by peacekeepers from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), as they came under heavy gunfire by around 40 unknown gunmen. Source: [Star Tribune](#)

15 July 2017: In Mathiang and Maiwut villages, Upper Nile state, unidentified assailants looted the compounds and assets of some unspecified humanitarian organisations. No further details are available. Source: [OCHA](#)

19 July 2017: In Maiwut county, Upper Nile state, doctors and patients were forced to evacuate a clinic to avoid being caught up in an army offensive closing in on the nearby opposition-stronghold Pagak. Source: [The New Arab](#)

Sudan

15 July 2017: In Central Darfur state, unidentified gunmen intercepted an ambulance in Shawa area whilst on the road between Nierteti town to Zalingei city, and killed two police officers who intervened. A few hours later, the police managed to recover the vehicle. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

18 July 2017: In Omdurman city, Khartoum state, police burned down houses in Juba camp for South Sudanese refugees in Wed Al-Bashir area, as part of government policy to crackdown on illegal structures around the city. The authorities in Abu Saed area have denied any involvement. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

04 July 2017: In Bogra town, Bogra district, Rajshahi division, criminals abducted the branch manager of SK Foundation on his way from work to go home in Matidali neighbourhood. The criminals demanded Tk 3 lakh as ransom from the victim's family, and threatened to kill him. Subsequently, the police arrested nine people, and rescued the victim. They also recovered Tk 80,000 from the arrested. Source: [The Daily Star](#)

Malaysia

20 July 2017: In Kuala Lumpur, immigration officers detained a Bangladeshi human rights activist at the airport. The activist had attended a conference on the abolishment of the death penalty. Source: [Free Malaysia Today](#)

Myanmar

01 July 2017: In Rakhine state, a local aid worker from the Philippines-based Community and Family Services International was dragged out of his home and hacked to death by about 10 masked assailants holding hatchets and knives. The Government of Myanmar has blamed Rohingya militants for his death, but on Twitter, an account that claims to represent the militants, known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), denied responsibility for the killing and accused the Myanmar authorities of trying to discredit their movement. Source: [Mizzima](#)

Pakistan

01 July 2017: In Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, two motorcycle-borne gunmen shot and killed a health worker who had been immunising children against polio. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. Source: [Dunya News](#)

The Philippines

24 July 2017: The President of the Philippines threatened to bomb tribal schools in the south of the country, in which insurgents are allegedly teaching students to become communist rebels. Source: [ABC](#)

Europe

Turkey

05 July 2017: Turkish police raided a hotel on an island off the coast of Istanbul in an alleged terrorism investigation. The country director of Amnesty International and 11 other activists who had gathered for a training seminar were detained. On 18 July, a Turkish court ordered six of the human rights activists, including Amnesty International's Turkey director, to be remanded in custody on charges of aiding a terror group. The other four were then released under judicial supervision. However, on 21 July, new arrest warrants were issued for the four after granting an appeal from prosecutors against their release. Sources: [Al Monitor](#), [The Local](#) and [The New Arab](#)

10 July 2017: Turkish authorities in Istanbul issued arrest warrants for 72 university staff, including a former adviser to the main opposition leader who staged a mass rally the day before to protest a crackdown since a failed military coup last year. Source: [Reuters](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

04 July 2017: *Update*: The Netherlands filed a complaint with the Government of Israel, requesting the return of The Netherlands-donated solar panels to the Israeli-occupied Jubbet al-Dhib village which were confiscated by Israeli authorities on 28 June. Source: [International Business Times](#)

23 July 2017: In Jerusalem, Israeli forces raided al-Makassed Hospital to detain Palestinians who were injured during clashes in al-Tur neighbourhood. Source: [Mondoweiss](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

01 July 2017: In Saqba, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian forces warplanes reportedly fired a missile near a Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) centre 21 ambulance while the team were responding to an earlier bombing, damaging the ambulance. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

01 July 2017: In Zamalka town, Damascus, a SCD volunteer at centre 103 was reportedly killed by a Syrian forces sniper. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

02 July 2017: In al Kasrat village, Raqqa governorate, a male national dentist was reportedly killed by a Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces sniper. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

04 July 2017: In Otaya, al Marj area, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian forces reportedly fired two missiles at SCD centre 114, damaging it. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

09 July 2017: In Ekidat village, Deir Ez-Zour governorate, Syrian forces warplanes reportedly targeted the Orthopaedics department at an unnamed makeshift hospital, killing a male national medical student. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

16 July 2017: In Idlib, Idlib governorate, a VBIED of unknown origin reportedly exploded in front of al Eyadat Surgical of Idlib city, damaging it. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

19 July 2017: In al Dana city, Idlib governorate, an SCD fire engine was shot at during clashes between Hay'et

Tahrir al Sham and Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement, damaging it. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

19 July 2017: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian forces artillery shelling reportedly killed a male national SCD volunteer. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

20 July 2017: Near Kafr Nabbol, Idlib governorate, fighters from Ahrar al Sham Islamic Movement reportedly opened fire at Kafr Nabbol Surgical Hospital, as they were trying to arrest a wounded fighter from Hay'et Tahrir al Sham, damaging the building. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

24 July 2017: In Ma'dan, Raqqa governorate, suspected Russian forces warplanes fired missiles at an unnamed maternity pharmacy, destroying the building. It was rendered out of commission. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

25 July 2017: In Idlib, Idlib governorate, an IED of unknown origin reportedly exploded near a SCD centre, causing no damage. Source: [The Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

The Americas

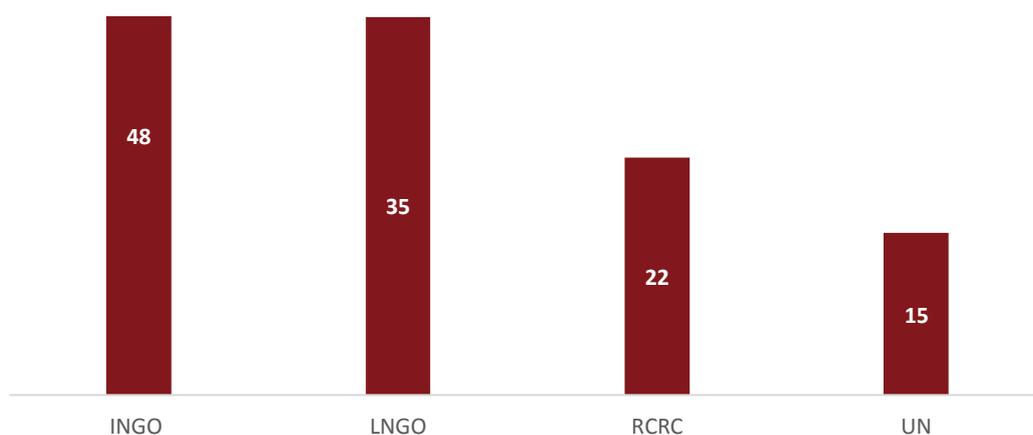
Colombia

05 July 2017: *Update*: A UN Organization Against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) staff member abducted on 03 May by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia was released. Source: [El Comercio](#)

Trend Reporting: January - June 2017

Security in Numbers Database (SiND) reported KIK¹ incidents, by type of organisation affected

In the first six months of 2017, 120 incidents in 34 countries in which 104 staff were killed, 93 injured and 97 were kidnapped were identified by Insecurity Insight's monitoring of open sources and reported by SiND partner agencies.



¹ KIK: Any incident that resulted in an aid worker being killed, injured or kidnapped.

In our coding, an aid worker is defined as an individual employed or attached to a humanitarian, UN or government aid agency. This includes: **Humanitarian Aid Workers** - individuals employed or attached to recognised aid agencies. **Humanitarian Health Workers** - medical personnel affiliated with a humanitarian aid agency. **Humanitarian Deminers** - deminers working for a humanitarian demining organisation. **Other Aid Workers** - missionaries, development agencies and local relief agencies serving a community. **Security guards or drivers** - individuals employed or contracted by aid agencies. **Red Cross and Red Crescent** - ICRC and all personnel or volunteers of National Societies. **UN staff** - staff contracted or working for the UN in a civilian, non-military capacity, which includes drivers and security guards. **Volunteers** include other aid workers working in a voluntary capacity.

Acronyms: **INGO**: International non-governmental organisation; **LNNGO**: Local non-governmental organisation; **RCRC**: Includes ICRC, IFRC and RCRC; **UN**: United Nations.

Data collection is ongoing and these numbers may change as new information is made available. Where the number of people affected is unspecified, one is counted. The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief also reports incidents that affect local people delivering, for example, vital health or education services. However, the deaths, kidnapping or injuries of these individuals are not included in the numbers counted above.

Security-related access constraints

Africa

Angola

11 July 2017: The Angolan Constitutional Tribunal declared the NGO Presidential Decree unconstitutional. The legislation, enacted in March 2015, sought to monitor the registration and financial support of NGOs. The court explained its decision by stating that procedure for its approval should have been done through the National Assembly. Source: [ENCA](#)

Cameroon

16 July 2017: In Yaounde, patients with renal impairment staged a sit-in at the city's General Hospital to express their dissatisfaction over the non-viability of dialysis kits. Source: [Cameroon-Info](#)

Mauritius

17 July 2017: In Quatre Bornes town, a bomb threat was reported at the Victoria Hospital in Candos area, which was later found to be a hoax. Source: [Lexpress](#)

Niger

09 July 2017: The Minister of Community Development announced measures to verify whether NGOs meet the real needs of the population, and to clarify collaboration between local and foreign groups. NGOs will also be required to provide the authorities with an annual report of their activities and to justify the use of allocated funds. Source: [Niamey Et Les](#)

South Sudan

04 July 2017: In Boma state, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) resumed regular flights to Pochalla county, after a month of cancellation owing to harassments by South Sudanese soldiers. Source: [Radio Tamazuji](#)

07-08 July 2017: In Upper Nile state, in the midst of escalating violence, at least 25 aid workers from different humanitarian organisations were relocated from Pagak county for safety reasons. As a result, more than 50,000 civilians in Longochuk and Maiwut counties have been cut off from assistance. Sources: [OCHA](#) and [Radio Tamazuji](#)

19 July 2017: The South Sudan Communication Authority blocked the website of news outlet Radio Tamazuji, denying aid workers access to credible information. Source: [Radio Tamazuji](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

26 July 2017: In Laghman province, following repeated threats against its staff from armed opposition groups, the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) was forced to close 20 clinics and its Health Management Office in the region. The NGO warned that, should the threats materialise, it will also close education, disability and rural development activities in the province. Source: [Swedish Committee](#)

Bangladesh

19 July 2017: The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit wants to bring all financial transactions in the country under their surveillance to prevent militant funding. After finding unusual transactions, the activities of 17 unspecified development INGOs are reportedly under surveillance. Source: [Dhaka Tribune](#)

Cambodia

25 July 2017: The Cambodian police prevented a UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) monitoring team from accessing two Stung Treng villages threatened by flooding from the Lower Sesan II Dam. The authorities explained the access denial by stating that the area was too dangerous due to an accelerated increase in water level due to ongoing heavy rains combined with the closed dam gates. Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#)

China

07 July 2017: Following legislation introduced six months ago requiring NGOs to register with the police, some unspecified international organisations suspended operations, cancelling events and losing partnerships in the country, claiming that the law is a ‘bureaucratic nightmare’, and appears to be aimed at making it more difficult for them to operate in the country. Source: [Reuters](#)

India

11 July 2017: 5,922 NGOs were found not to have uploaded annual returns for three or more years on 14 June when the deadline to do so expired. Consequently, all organisations have been issued a notice of cancellation of registration under Section 14 of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. Source: [EkDrishti](#)

Myanmar

06 July 2017: The Myanmar Government refused to grant visas to three members of a UN fact-finding mission to investigate alleged human rights abuses by security forces in Rakhine state. Source: [Crux](#)

Pakistan

21 July 2017: In Landi Kotal town, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), classes for Afghan students resumed after five months. Students were able to cross the border after new identification passes were provided by Pakistani authorities. Source: [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty](#)

Europe

Italy

07 July 2017: To stem the flows of migrants into the country, the Italian Government drafted a code of conduct for NGOs operating in the Mediterranean Sea, laying out a series of obligations for the rescue groups. These include allowing investigative police on board at all times, prohibition from entering Libyan territorial waters and from obstructing the Libyan coast guard’s rescue operations. NGOs that do not comply are threatened with not being granted access to Italy’s ports. Sources: [EU Observer](#) and [Reuters](#)

Moldova

12 July 2017: The Moldavian Government proposed a ban on foreign funding for NGOs involved in political activities. Source: [Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Egypt

26 July 2017: United States (US) officials are discussing whether to cut off a portion of US assistance to Egypt to protest the passage of an Egyptian law in May 2017 that imposes restrictions on NGOs. Source: [Reuters](#)

Iraq/KRI

07 July 2017: Near Mosul city, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) temporarily suspended its activities at the Qayara airstrip emergency site and Haj Ali camp amid sporadic violence and gunfire in the areas. Six water-tanker trucks commissioned by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration were prevented from entering the camp. Local staff were instructed to stay at home and not enter the camps after a

Baghdad-imposed curfew and restrictions on movement. Source: [Associated Press](#)

Lebanon

09 July 2017: In al-Qasr town, Baalbek-Hermel governorate, the Lebanese army raided several refugee camps along the Lebanon-Syrian border, arresting at least 26 Syrian refugees for failing to produce identification documents. Source: [The New Arab](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

12 July 2017: The UN is now using newly opened land routes in Syria to expand food deliveries by land to areas around Raqqa, Raqqa governorate. The new access has allowed the World Food Programme to deliver food to rural areas for the first time in three years. Source: [New Jersey Herald](#)

26 July 2017: The UN continues to struggle to deliver humanitarian assistance to those in besieged and hard-to-reach areas due to fighting and insecurity. There were no UN aid convoys to besieged areas in July, and just one per week to hard-to-reach areas. Other UN partners delivered aid to some hard-to-reach areas. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#) and [Reuters](#)

27 July 2017: Syrian opposition groups reopened the northwest Bab al-Hawa Border Crossing with Turkey after a week-long closure caused by rebel infighting, allowing more than 200 trucks carrying food and humanitarian supplies to cross from Turkey into Syria. Source: [Reuters](#)

The Americas

Argentina

29 June 2017: In Buenos Aires, a school, the Argentine Franco Lyceum Jean Mermoz in Belgrano neighbourhood, was evacuated following a bomb threat, which later turned out to be false alarm. Source: [La Capital](#)

Canada

22 July 2017: The Canada Revenue Agency revoked the charity status of Islamic Services of North America-Canada for non-compliance, after a recent audit cited possible funding of Pakistan militant organisation, Hizbul Mujahideen. Source: [India Today](#)

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.

