

# The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief

May  
2017

## Security Incidents

### Africa

#### *Burkina Faso*

15 May 2017: In Djahoye town, unidentified perpetrators launched an attack, killing the president of the Village Development Council, and seizing money, food and a motorcycle before fleeing. Source: [China](#)

#### *Burundi*

05 May 2017: In Bujumbura city, some unnamed people have used fake Red Cross emblems to commit unspecified crimes, endangering rescuers and putting the lives of the wounded at risk. Source: [IWACU](#)

#### *Cameroon*

15 May 2017: In Bamenda, Northwest region, unidentified perpetrators burned down five classrooms at the Government Primary School. Source: [Cameroon Concord](#)

#### *Central African Republic*

08 May 2017: In Mbomou region, anti-balaka fighters ambushed a MINUSCA convoy travelling between Yogofongo village and Bangassou, killing one Cambodian peacekeeper and wounding at least eight others, including one Cambodian and seven Moroccans. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#) and [Central Afrique Presse](#)

09 May 2017: In Mbomou region, three peacekeepers who had disappeared after the above attack were found dead. Another peacekeeper remains missing. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Central Afrique Presse](#), [International Business Times](#), [VOA News](#)

13-14 May 2017: In Bangassou, Mbomou region, anti-balaka fighters attacked a MINUSCA base twice, killing dozens, including one Moroccan peacekeeper. Sources: [Reuters](#), [RJDH](#), [Telquel](#) and [The Wire](#)

#### *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*

05 May 2017: On the Mwenga-Tubimbi road, South Kivu, over 30 INGO and NGO staff members were kidnapped when militiamen

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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ambushed and fired at a convoy of four INGO and NGO vehicles. Most were rescued during a rescue operation but six staff members (five national and one international) remain in captivity. One driver was also seriously wounded in the incident. Source: [AWSD](#)

29 May 2017: In North Kivu province, unidentified armed men broke into Mweso hospital and kidnapped a doctor. He was found dead a kilometre from the hospital the following day. Source: [VOA](#)

### ***Mali***

03 May 2017: In Timbuktu, six rockets of unknown origin were fired at a MINUSMA camp, killing one Liberian peacekeeper, and wounding eight Liberian and one Swedish peacekeeper. Sources: [aBamako](#) and [ABC](#)

15 May 2017: In Timbuktu, a MINUSMA camp which was attacked the previous day was attacked again, wounding four peacekeepers and three members of the Malian Armed Forces. Source: [UN News Centre](#)

15 May 2017: In Tenenkou district, Mopti region, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped four national ICRC staff members who were assessing alleged human rights violations in the region. All four were reportedly released on 16 May 2017. Sources: [Le Orient Le Jour](#), [Pulse](#), [Sahelien](#), and [Swiss Info](#)

21 May 2017: In Youwarou, Mopti region, an unnamed primary school was ransacked and set on fire by alleged jihadists. Two civilians were beaten during the attack. Source: [Le Orient Le Jour](#)

### ***Nigeria***

06 May 2017: On the Oleh-Ozoro, unidentified gunmen kidnapped a lecturer at Delta State University, Oleh campus, and demanded a N100 million ransom. Source: [Vanguard](#)

13 May 2017: In Maiduguri, Borno state, three suicide bombers were killed while attempting to gain access to the Department of Mechanical Works at Maiduguri University. A security guard was killed in the explosions. Source: [Ynaija](#)

14 May 2017: On the Lokoja-Abuja expressway, the permanent secretary of the Ondo State Hospital Management Board and his driver were kidnapped when their vehicle was ambushed by unidentified perpetrators. A N70 million ransom has been made for their release. Source: [Premium Times](#)

18 May 2017: In Maiduguri, Borno state, three male suicide bombers were killed while attempting to attack a female hostel at Maiduguri University. Another explosion occurred near the university's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Four security guards, including volunteers were injured. Source: [Vanguard](#)

26 May 2017: In Igbo Nla, Lagos, an unspecified number of teachers and students from Lagos State Model College junior and senior schools were kidnapped by unidentified perpetrator(s). Source: [Punch](#)

### ***Somalia***

05 May 2017: In Talex, Mogadishu, a university lecturer was seriously injured in a VBIED explosion that had been attached to his car. Source: [Shabelle News](#)

### ***South Sudan***

02 May 2017: In Wulu, Rumbek, an INGO driver was shot by armed men and a UN staff member slightly injured when a UN-contracted NGO aid convoy delivering humanitarian supplies was attacked. Source: [AWSD](#)

03 May 2016: In Leer town, Unity state, unidentified perpetrator(s) attacked the Temporary Operating Base of the UNMISS. No casualties were reported. Sources: [Graphic Online](#), [Reuters](#) and [Sudan Tribune](#)

14 May 2017: In Idolu, East Equatoria state, one UN-contracted truck driver was killed and another escaped unharmed when two UN-contracted trucks were ambushed by unidentified armed men during their return from Kapoeta to Torit. Source: [AWSD](#)

25 May 2017: Near Mayom town, Northern Liech state, an unspecified NGO vehicle was attacked by gunmen wearing military uniforms after delivering aid to Sudanese refugees in Yida IDP camp. No casualties were reported. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

28 May 2017: *Update*: South Sudanese authorities released a journalist from the UN-sponsored Miraya FM radio station who had been detained in an unknown location without charges since 22 August 2014. Sources: [AllAfrica](#) and [Radio Tamazuj](#)

30 May 2017: Thirteen South Sudanese soldiers charged with raping five international aid workers and killing one national aid worker in an attack on the Terrain Hotel on July 11, 2016 appeared before a military court. Source: [TRF](#)

## **Sudan**

10 May 2017: In West Darfur, two male IDPs were kidnapped whilst at a market inside Murnei IDP camp by unidentified armed men in two Land Cruisers. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

10 May 2017: In Bor, two civil society activists were arrested after staging protests against the government-led peace initiative between Jonglei and Boma states the week before. On 14 May 2017, both escaped from detention at the state police prison. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

11 May 2017: In Al Fulah town, West Kordofan state, unidentified perpetrator(s) in military uniforms stormed an unnamed hospital and stole 29,768 USD worth of salaries. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

20 May 2017: In Kabul, a German INGO staff member was killed, an Afghan NGO security guard was beheaded and one Finnish INGO staff member was kidnapped when unidentified perpetrator(s) attacked a guest house run by Swedish NGO Operation Mercy. Sources: [AWSD](#), [CNN](#), [Stratfor](#), [The Local](#), [TOLO](#) and [YLE](#)

### **China**

31 May 2017: Two aid workers from an unnamed NGO investigating working conditions at a supplier for Ivanka Trump's fashion brand in China were reported missing. An activist working on the same investigation was detained by authorities on 31 May 2017. Source: [Capital News](#)

### **Pakistan**

Date unclear: In Tank, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, three polio workers were kidnapped by unidentified armed perpetrators during the second day of a polio campaign. One worker was rescued and efforts are under way for the recovery of the remaining two. Source: [The News](#)

24 May 2017: In Jinnah, Quetta, Balochistan province, a female and male Chinese teacher were kidnapped by unidentified armed men pretending to be policemen. Source: [The Express Tribune](#)

## **Papua New Guinea**

31 May 2017: In the country's capital Port Moresby, four police officers beat a doctor on the side of a road as he was travelling home from a clinic. The assailants were arrested on 11 June. Source: [Radio New Zealand](#)

## **Europe**

### **Italy**

12 May 2017: In Aventino district, Rome, an explosion detonated near a UN building. Source: [IBT](#)

## **Middle-East and North Africa**

### **Iraq/KRI**

04 May 2017: In Mosul, a missile hit El-Vela School and killed 81 people in the context of an anti-terrorist operation. It is unclear whether the state anti-Daesh units or Daesh were responsible. Source: [Daily Sabah](#)

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

01 May 2017: In Hamouriya, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, suspected Russian warplanes fired several missiles at a residential building whose basement is occupied by a medical recovery point affiliated to Irbeen Surgical Hospital. The building was destroyed and equipment was heavily damaged. The facility was forced to close. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

02 May 2017: Around Rajm al Salibeh, Hasakah governorate, over five suicide bombers detonated inside and outside an unnamed IDP camp, killing at least 23 IDPs. Source: [Newsweek](#)

02 May 2017: On Bosr al Harir-Nahta road, Dara'a Governorate, three male Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) volunteers and the head of SCD-affiliated centre 12 were killed in an IED explosion planted near an SCD ambulance, as the ambulance crew were aiding victims of another IED explosion. The SCD ambulance was destroyed. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

04 May 2017: In Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a male national paramedic who worked for Jaish al Islam - an armed opposition faction - was fatally shot whilst evacuating the wounded of the infighting between opposition groups. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

05 May 2017: In Deir Es- Sour, Deir ez Zour Governorate, a male national Red Crescent volunteer was killed by a parachute carrying relief aids dropped by a cargo aircraft in the city's neighbourhoods besieged by IS. As of this writing, the identity of the aircraft remains unclear. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

06 May 2017: In al Shayyah, Dara'a, Dara'a Governorate, three SCD Unexploded Munitions volunteers were wounded during artillery shelling fired by Syrian forces which landed near their vehicle, damaging it. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

09 May 2017: In al Mansoura, al Raqqa, al Raqqa Governorate, international coalition forces fired several missiles at a makeshift hospital, destroying it. The facility was forced to close. It is worth noting that this hospital is reportedly for treating wounded IS fighters. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

10 May 2017: In al Bab, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, two male SCD volunteers were killed by an IS-planted landmine. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

11 May 2017: In Jabal al Akrad, Latakia governorate, Syrian forces fired several rockets that landed near an SCD ambulance in Bdama town, Idlib governorate, damaging it. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

14 May 2017: In Deir ez Zour, two SARC volunteers were seriously wounded when unidentified perpetrator(s) attacked a SARC bread distribution point. Source: [SARC](#)

28 May 2017: In al Raqqa, al Raqqa Governorate, Syrian Democratic Forces fired several shells at al Resala Hospital, damaging it. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#)

### **Yemen**

22 May 2017: In Sanaa, unidentified gunmen attacked a convoy of the UN Special Envoy to Yemen whilst travelling from the capital's airport to the UN compound. Source: [Reuters](#)

## **The Americas**

### **Colombia**

04 May 2017: In Barranquillita area, Guaviare state, former fighters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) kidnapped a Colombian delegate from the UN's monitoring and verification mission. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#) and [Colombia Reports](#)

### **El Salvador**

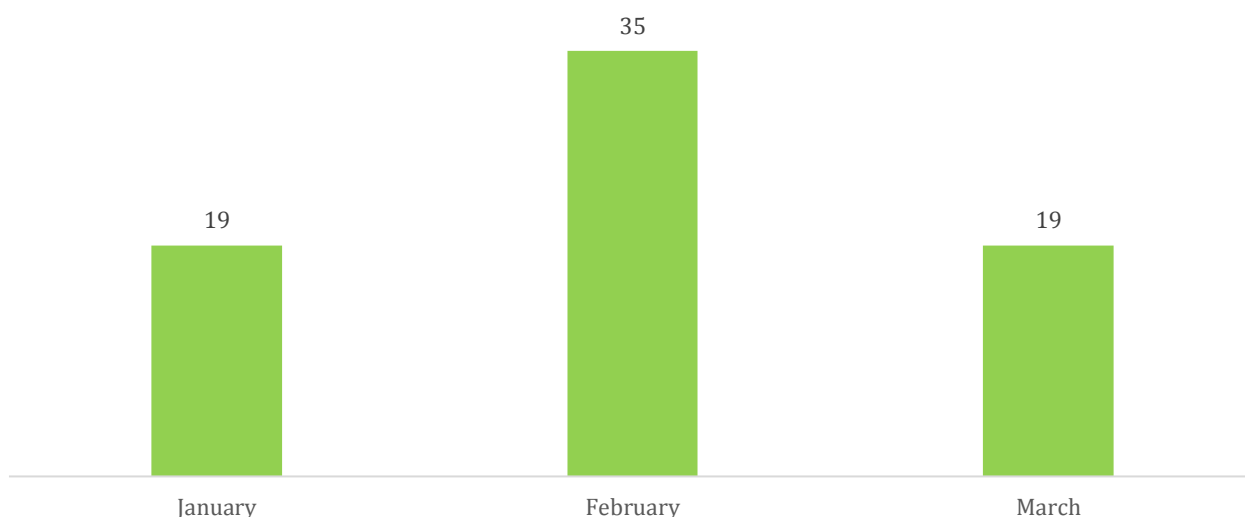
09 May 2017: In Mejicanos, San Salvador, four health workers were sexually assaulted and robbed by Mara Salvatrucha-13 gang members. Source: [El Salvador](#)

### **Mexico**

20 May 2017: In Veracruz, Ciudad Olmeca, a male doctor was kidnapped outside his home by unidentified armed perpetrator(s). He was rescued by Mexican army with support from Specialized Unit Against Abduction (UECS) personnel. Minor injuries reported. Sources: [Debate](#) and [Liberal](#)

## **Trend Reporting: January 2017 – March 2017**

### **Open source reported incidents affecting the delivery of healthcare, by month**



Between January and March 2017, open-source monitoring by the Aid in Danger project, identified 73 incidents affecting health workers, facilities and ambulances. Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available.

## Security-related access constraints

### Africa

#### *Central African Republic*

05 May 2017: In Ouham region, Danish Church Aid, International Organization for Migration, Intersos, Person in Need Relief Mission and Solidarités International, among others, withdrew staff from Kabo town following attacks on aid workers by armed groups. Other NGOs, including MSF, decided to scale down their activities to focus only on life-saving operations. Sources: [AllAfrica](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Boston News](#), [Star Tribune](#) and [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

20 May 2017: In Bria town, a week-long fighting between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka militias and looting forced humanitarian workers to seek refuge inside the MINUSCA base. Source: [Reuters](#)

#### *DRC*

10 May 2017: Aid workers are finding it increasingly difficult to address the deteriorating situation in the country, with many facing risks of attacks, and unable to access areas in most need of humanitarian assistance. Since the beginning of 2017, almost 3,000 incidents involving violence or direct threats against aid and development workers have been reported. However, the source does not include to whom these incidents were reported. Source: [DW](#)

#### *Ethiopia*

04 May 2017: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, requested the Ethiopian Government to grant his staff access to the areas affected by human rights abuses during unrest in 2015 and 2016. Source: [Reuters](#)

#### *Kenya*

09 May 2017: The US Government suspended financial support to the Ministry of Health due to corruption reports and lack of accountability. Source: [Daily Nation](#)

#### *Niger*

10 May 2017: In Agadez, an activist from the Framework for Action for Democracy and Human Rights was arrested whilst in a bar and accused of inciting violence on social media. Source: [RFI Africa](#)

10 May 2017: In Niamey, police dispersed tear gas on a demonstration arranged by an unnamed civil society group against "bad governance" and shortages of electricity. The police stated the demonstration had been banned whilst civil groups argue not all were informed of the ban. Source: [Niamey](#)

#### *Somalia*

04 May 2017: The UN claimed kidnapping of aid workers and extortion at checkpoints are on the rise, hindering efforts aimed at preventing the country from slipping into renewed famine. Source: [Reuters Africa](#)

#### *South Sudan*

03 May 2017: The South Sudanese Government has increased registration fees for international aid groups seeking to operate in the country. The new fees require foreign NGOs to pay 3,500 USD, and local groups 500 USD. Source: [Reuters](#)

## Asia

### China

04 May 2017: Following an urgent social media appeal by the Hong Kong Red Cross that stated its inventory would only be enough to provide blood for four days, many commentators accused the organisation of lack of transparency, and urged it to disclose details of the recipients of its blood supply, including their nationality. Source: [Hong Kong Free Press](#)

### India

16 May 2017: NGOs who applied for registration renewal under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) but not yet uploaded annual returns have been granted an extra 30 days to do so, or face having their registration suspended. Sources: [NDTV](#) and [Newsbytesepp](#)

### Myanmar

11 May 2017: The Myanmar authorities blocked the ICRC from areas under the control of ethnic minority forces. Source: [Reuters](#)

## Europe

### Greece

26 May 2017: Greek authorities ordered an investigation into allegations that staff at an unnamed European Union funded NGO sexually exploited refugees and misused funding. Source: [WTOP](#)

### Italy

Date unclear: Italian authorities are reportedly investigating MSF for allegedly facilitating illegalized migration. In response, MSF released a statement stating they have had no contact with prosecutors and that they operate "in-line with international and national laws." Source: [DW](#)

03 May 2017: In Catania, Sicily, the chief prosecutor investigating possible ties between humanitarian organisations who rescue migrants at sea and Libya-based people smugglers, stated there is no proof of wrongdoing. Source: [Reuters](#)

### Turkey

11 May 2017: Turkish authorities suspended the operating licences and arrested and deported staff from unnamed NGOs and further complicated regulations for international NGOs. Source: [Middle East Eye](#)

28 May 2017: The USAID Office of Inspector General banned and debarred several delivery and supply companies and affiliates due to involvement in corrupt activities, mainly collusion between companies selling humanitarian supplies and staff of USAID local partners, who reportedly accepted bribes in exchange for help in winning a contract. Source: [TRF](#)

## Middle-East and North Africa

### Egypt

13 May 2017: The Cairo office head of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) was summoned by a judge for questioning as part of an ongoing investigation involving several NGOs accused of illegally receiving foreign funding. Source: [Madamsr](#)

29 May 2017: The Egyptian Government enacted a new controversial law approved in parliament in November 2016, imposing strict new regulations on aid groups. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [New York Times](#), [Reuters I](#) and [Reuters II](#)



## **Israel**

15 May 2017: The Knesset Finance Committee discussed a bill intended to change tax breaks on NGOs. Critics say the bill is meant to undermine far-left organisations, such as Breaking the Silence and B'Tselem. Source: [The Jerusalem Post](#)

## **Jordan**

10 May 2017: In Amman, women's organisations, including the Jordanian Women's Union, organised a sit-in in front of the UN headquarters in support of over 1,600 Palestinians who entered their 24th day of a mass hunger strike inside Israeli prisons. The demonstrators urged the UN to enforce international laws that guarantee basic rights to prisoners. Source: [Ma'an News Agency](#)

## **Occupied Palestinian Territories**

10 May 2017: In Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, occupied east Jerusalem, activists from the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) and Palestinian Prisoners' Families Committee organised a sit-in in front of the ICRC building, calling for international and legal organisations to intervene and achieve the demands of Palestinian prisoners. Source: [Ma'an News Agency](#)

17 May 2017: In Ramallah, demonstrations outside the UN headquarters prevented UN staff from entering the building. Protestors were denouncing the UN's inaction regarding the month-long hunger strike undertaken by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli custody. Source: [Ma'an News Agency](#)

## **Qatar**

24 May 2017: Qatari authorities reportedly deported a Saudi human rights activist to Saudi Arabia. Amnesty International condemned the action and the Norwegian justice ministry confirmed that a Saudi human rights activist had received a travel permit to Norway as a UN quota refugee. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

02 May 2017: In Douma, East Ghouta, Damascus, a 51-truck convoy carrying food and medical supplies successfully reached the besieged town for the first time since October 2016 in a joint operation by the UN and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Source: [Reuters](#)

11 May 2017: Regulations governing how aid budgets are spent blocked funding to subterranean hospitals, forcing medics to seek alternative ways of building and maintaining facilities, including crowd-funding. Source: [The Guardian](#)

## **The Americas**

### **Venezuela**

16 May 2017: The Venezuelan government ban on humanitarian aid has forced many volunteer organisations to import medicine via irregular channels. Source: [Grenada Star](#)

