

Protection in Danger

Monthly News Brief

August
2021

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees. **Access the data on [HDX](#).**

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Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence in refugee and IDP settings.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

As reported on 18 August 2021: In Nyabiondo region, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, armed groups were repeatedly pillaging IDP sites and abusing IDPs. Reportedly, more than 50 IDPs were incarcerated by armed groups. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Ethiopia

05 August 2021: In an unnamed village, Afar region, over 200 displaced people sheltering in a health facility and a school, including more than 100 children, were allegedly killed by Tigray People's Liberation Front forces. Crucial food supplies were also reportedly destroyed in the area.. **Sources:** [Ethiopia Observer](#), [Reuters](#) and [UNICEF](#)

South Sudan

13 August 2021: In an unspecified village, Akobo county, Jonglei state, a family of refugees who were returning back home after seeking refuge in Ethiopia were attacked by gunmen who killed a man and abducted his son. **Source:** [Radio Miraya](#)

23 August 2021: In Otogo Payam area, Yei River County, Central Equatoria State, National Salvation Front elements allegedly attacked Nyori Refugee Settlement Camp hosting Sudanese and Congolese refugees. The attackers reportedly abducted a number of refugees and health workers, and looted food and belongings as well as medicines. The health centre and an ambulance were set on fire. The National Salvation Front denied the allegations. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj I](#) and [Radio Tamazuj II](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

As reported on 09 August 2021: In the 15th police district, Kabul, an estimated 17,000 IDPs - mainly women, children, elderly and the wounded - from Badakhshan and Kunduz provinces have been left homeless and forced to live on the streets and in parks, pending the provision of shelter and food assistance from the Afghan Government. **Sources:** [Khaama Press](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Bangladesh

14 August 2021: Off the coast of the Bhashan Char island, Hatiya upazila, Noakhali district, Chittagong division, a boat carrying 42 Rohingya refugees, who were attempting to flee from their confinement on the island, capsized in bad weather, causing 26 to disappear and potentially drown.



Local fishermen rescued 12 survivors and returned them to Bhashan Char, while Bangladeshi authorities recovered 11 bodies. **Sources:** [Mizzima](#) and [Radio Free Asia](#)

As reported on 25 August 2021: On the Bhashan Char island, Hatiya upazila, Noakhali district, Chittagong division, Bangladeshi authorities have arrested at least 200 Rohingya refugees since May for trying to escape from their confinement on the island. Aid workers suspect that the actual number of arrests is much higher. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Myanmar

As first reported on 05 August 2021: In Mindat township and district, Chin state, the military junta has blocked all entrances and exits of Mindat town, leaving at least 50,000 IDPs under siege, with only two weeks supply of food. **Sources:** [Mizzima](#) and [Radio Free Asia](#)

Pakistan

31 July 2021: The National Security Advisor announced that Pakistan already hosts three million Afghan refugees, and warned that it cannot afford to accept more due to a limited capacity, urging the international community to assist them instead. **Source:** [Khaama Press](#)

Tajikistan

As reported on 01 August 2021: The Tajik Government has announced that it would accept up to 100,000 Afghans displaced by the conflict in Afghanistan, but would not provide refuge to those who have worked with the US over the past 20 years - who could face persecution at the hands of the Taliban. **Source:** [Khaama Press](#)

Europe

Belarus

As reported on 08 August 2021: The Belarusian Government has operated flights from Iraq and Syria to Minsk, and from Minsk to the Belarus-Lithuania border, from where migrants and asylum seekers would try to enter Europe. The EU has described such actions as blackmail and exploitation of migrants and refugees. On 06 August, the Iraqi Government suspended all flights to Belarus to combat what it refers to as human trafficking and expansion of smuggling networks. **Sources:** [The New Arab I](#) and [The New Arab II](#)

Latvia

11 August 2021: In Robeznieki administrative unit, Kraslava municipality, a group of 30 asylum seekers from Iraq, including women and toddlers, were pushed back to Belarus by Latvian guards who also used a patrol dog to scare the group. The Latvian guards commander confirmed that the asylum-seekers were turned away and told to go to the nearest official border crossing point 30km away. This pushback has occurred under a new state of emergency in Belarus. According to Latvia's Interior Ministry 59 asylum seekers have been turned back since the emergency was agreed. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Spain

Early-August 2021: Off the coast of the Canary Islands, a merchant ship rescued 33 refugees and asylum seekers who had spent two weeks adrift in the Atlantic Ocean, during which 14 people lost their lives. **Source:** [New Age](#)

31 August 2021: Off the coast of Fuerteventura island, Canary Islands, a dinghy carrying sub-Saharan African migrants found itself in distress, whilst en route from Morocco to the Canary Islands. Around 30 passengers were believed to perish, whilst 30 more were rescued by the Spanish coastguard. Another boat, carrying 42 people, went missing. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

United Kingdom

As reported on 11 August 2021: In West Drayton town, Hillingdon borough, London region, England, hospitality staff have harassed female asylum seekers at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where they are accommodated by the UK Home Office, creating an atmosphere where all female residents

feel unsafe. Asylum seekers have had their items stolen, while others are unable to access critical services, including health care. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

As reported on 13 August 2021: In Kent county, South East region, England, the UK Home Office has re-started new transfers of asylum seekers to the Napier Barracks, which had ceased last June after a High Court judge found that the site failed to meet minimum standards. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

18 August 2021: In Sheffield city, South Yorkshire county, Yorkshire and the Humber region, England, a five-year-old Afghan boy fell to his death from the ninth floor of the Sheffield Metropolitan Hotel onto a neighbouring carpark, amidst criticism against the British Government for providing substandard accommodation for undocumented migrants. The boy, alongside his family, had arrived in Sheffield in search of international protection four days earlier, after fleeing the Taliban from Afghanistan. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

As reported on 03 August 2021: In Beirut, destitution resulting from the 2020 port explosion, coupled with limited employment rights and a lack of family support network, have made many LGBTQ refugees - mostly from Syria - vulnerable to exploitation. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Libya

As reported on 24 August 2021: Off the coast of Zuwarah city, Tripolitania region, a boat carrying 18 migrants sank, causing those on board to drown, including a woman and a child. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Mediterranean Sea

31 July 2021: In international waters, a dinghy carrying 57 asylum seekers and migrants found itself in distress, prompting a rescue operation by the Ocean Viking humanitarian ship. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

31 July 2021: In international waters, another dinghy carrying 54 asylum seekers and migrants found itself in distress, prompting a rescue operation by the Ocean Viking humanitarian ship. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

31 July 2021: In international waters, a wooden boat carrying 64 asylum seekers and migrants found itself in distress, prompting a rescue operation by the Ocean Viking humanitarian ship. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

The total of those rescued in the aforementioned three incidents included at least two pregnant women and 33 minors, 22 of whom were unaccompanied.

Morocco

19-25 August 2021: Off the Moroccan coast, makeshift boats carrying 438 migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, found themselves in distress, prompting several rescue operations by the Moroccan navy. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

15 August 2021: In Jenin city and governorate, a conflict broke out between Israeli soldiers disguised as Palestinians and Palestinian residents of the Jenin Camp, as the former were on a mission to detain a suspect. Israeli soldiers reportedly used teargas and live bullets, killing four Palestinians. **Source:** [TRT World](#)

As reported on 17 August 2021: In Jericho governorate, Israeli forces raided the Aqbat Jabr Camp, leading to clashes with Palestinians. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

As reported on 17 August 2021: In east Jerusalem, Palestinian youths launched Molotov cocktails at an Israeli military tower at the Shuafat Camp. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

24 August 2021: In Nablus city and governorate, West Bank, Israeli forces stormed the Balata Camp as part of an overnight operation to apprehend a suspect, prompting residents to riot, hurling blocks and other objects from rooftops at soldiers. At the same time, one of the soldiers hit a 15-year-old boy with live fire, after spotting him holding a large object in his hands. The boy was later confirmed dead. **Sources:** [The New Arab](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

06 August 2021: In Al Hol camp, Al Hasakah governorate, a male Iraqi refugee was found dead in section one of the camp, with signs of gunshot wounds. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 August 2021: In Al Hol camp, Al Hasakah governorate, gunmen shot and killed a male IDP. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

As reported on 17 August 2021: In Daraa governorate, Palestinian refugees living near conflict areas have faced increased risks related to contamination by explosive remnants of war. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

17 August 2021: In Khair al Sham IDP camp, north of Kelli town, Idlib governorate, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham gunmen stormed the camp and arrested three civilians, who were taken to an undisclosed location. A woman was also assaulted. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

17 August 2021: In Al Hol camp, Al Hasakah governorate, the bodies of one male and one female Iraqi refugee were found in their tent in section four of the camp, with signs of gunshot wounds. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

25 August 2021: In Al Hol camp, Al Hasakah governorate, the bodies of one male and one female Iraqi refugee were found dead in their tents with signs of gunshot wounds. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

26 August 2021: Near al Sheikh Mustafa IDP camp, Idlib governorate, a male IDP child was killed while another was injured when unexploded ordnance detonated. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

27 August 2021: In Al Hol camp, Al Hasakah governorate, a male Iraqi refugee was found dead in section one of the camp, with signs of gunshot wounds. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Tunisia

01 August 2021: Off the Tunisian coast, a wooden boat crammed with at least 394 asylum seekers and migrants started sinking, prompting a rescue mission by the Sea-Watch 3 and Ocean Viking humanitarian ships, as well as the Nadir yacht of the NGO ResQ Ship. It was not clear if there were any deaths or injuries. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Western Sahara

06 August 2021: Off the coast of Dhakla city, Oued-Ed-Dahab province, Dakhla-Oued Ed-Dahab region, a boat carrying at least 50 asylum seekers and migrants capsized whilst en route from Western Sahara to the Canary Islands, causing 42 to perish, including 30 women, eight children and four men. Ten survivors were rescued by fishermen. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

The Americas

United States of America

16 August 2021: The US Government has requested Bangladesh to temporarily host thousands of displaced Afghans who worked for US entities in Afghanistan over the past 20 years, pending confirmation of their permanent resettlement to the USA. The Bangladeshi Government, however, rejected the request, stating that such confirmations were not guaranteed, and that its implementation would adversely affect the country's bilateral relations with Afghanistan. **Source:** [New Age](#)

This Monthly News Brief comprises reported threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees. It is part of the Protection in Danger project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases.

The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events of threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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