# Aid in Danger

Bi-Monthly News Brief

25 August -07 September 2021

01 January-07 September 2021 Aid Worker KKA is now available for download on our website or on HDX. Insecurity Insight continuously updates data on aid workers killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA). Updated data includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies.

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# Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence affecting aid workers and aid delivery.

## **Africa**

## Ethiopia

27 August 2021: In Lay Gayint Woreda, South Gondar zone, Amhara region, the office and staff residency houses of a local charity organisation sponsored by USAID were looted by members of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Among the looted items were 25 motorcycles and food supplies. Office items were also destroyed. The following Tuesday, the head of the USAID mission in Ethiopia also stated that several of the agency's warehouses storing aid supplies had been looted by the TPLF, particularly in the Amhara region. Sources: Amhara Media Corporation, NY Times and Reuters

As reported on 31 August 2021: In Tigray region, TPLF fighters have looted warehouses and trucks containing humanitarian aid. Source: HumAngle and The New Arab

Around 03 September 2021: In Gayint, South Gondar zone, Amhara region, the TPLF allegedly looted a UNICEF warehouse storing food supplies. Source: Africa Press

05 September 2021: A WFP-led humanitarian convoy of 100 trucks carrying 3,500mt of food and other lifesaving assistance reached Tigray region. Source: WFP Ethiopia

14 September 2021: Ethiopia Situation Report. Latest analysis, predictions and mitigations.

Data on incidents of sexual violence in Ethiopia is available for November 2020 to August 2021.

## Mali

30 August 2021: In Bazi-Gourma village, Ansongo commune, Gao region, a health worker was abducted and NGO workers' motorbikes were looted by suspected Islamic State of West-Africa Province (ISWAP) militants. Source: Radio Guintan

## Nigeria

29 August 2021: At Rann town, Borno state, a Nigerian aid worker was killed in a Boko Haram raid on a military compound in which sixteen other civilians were also killed. Source: AWSD1



## South Sudan

- **22 August 2021:** In Lacharok village, Lafon County, Eastern Equatoria State, three World Food Program vehicles were shot at by a group of local civilians from Lacharok. Following the attack, a young man admitted to shooting at the convoy. World Food Program activities in the area were suspended on the same day. **Source:** Radio Tamazuj
- **23 August 2021:** In Lafon County, Eastern Equatoria State, a World Food Programme convoy on their way back from their mission location after they had been told to cease operations following an attack on WFP vehicles a day earlier was stopped by two gunmen. The aggressors took away the aid workers' personal belongings including their mobile phones, laptops, bedsheets, money, and clothes. At the end, one of the robbers wanted to kill the aid workers but the other disagreed, and the aid workers were finally allowed to leave. **Source:** Radio Tamazuj
- **06 September 2021:** In Tombura town, Tambura County, Western Equatoria state, a South Sudanese aid worker was killed in crossfire during community clashes. **Source:** AWSD<sup>1</sup>

## Uganda

**Around 26 August 2021:** Near Kotido, Kotido district, Northern region, a former aid worker was shot and killed by Dodoth and Jie militias. **Source:** ACLED<sup>2</sup>

## Asia

## Afghanistan

- **19 August 2021:** In Kabul, Taliban militants stopped an Afghan UN staffer as he tried to reach the Hamid Karzai International Airport. **Source:** <u>The New Arab</u>
- **20 August 2021:** In an unspecified location, three unknown men visited the home of a UN staff member who was at work at the time, asking his son about his whereabouts, and accused him of lying when the latter told them that he does not know his father's location. **Source:** The New Arab
- As reported on 27 August 2021: In Kabul, security concerns and several operational considerations related to the Taliban's takeover of the Hamid Karzai International Airport after US withdrawal on 31 August will prevent the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan for at least the following week. Source: The New Arab
- 29 August 2021: In Kabul, a male Afghan aid worker working for US INGO Nutrition and Education International was killed along with nine other civilians in a US drone strike that struck the car he was travelling in, according to investigation by the New York Times and Washington Post. At least 18 aid workers have been killed in Afghanistan so far in 2021. Source: BBC
- **31 August 2021:** The German Government announced that between 10,000 and 40,000 Afghans who work for development organisations and who are entitled to German residence have the right to be evacuated from Afghanistan, should they feel that their life is in danger. **Source:** The New Arab

**Flash Analysis and Prediction:** UN says staff are increasingly being harassed by the Taliban. Analysis and prediction available <a href="here">here</a>. Subscribe to our <a href="here">Afghanistan mailing list</a> to receive Afghanistan updates.

#### Mvanmar

- **27 August 2021:** In Min Taing Pin village, Pale township, Yinmarbin district, Sagaing region, a male charity worker was arrested by Myanmar military forces and beaten on the head. The charity worker reportedly had a profile frame on Facebook in support of the National Unity Government (NUG). **Source:** ACLED<sup>2</sup>
- **28 August 2021:** In SanChaung township, Yangon division, a 17-year-old volunteer with a COVID-19 relief organisation was arrested at home by SAC forces, who accused him of being involved in a bombing. The victim had reportedly been working at the COVID-19 facility since May. He is currently being detained in Shwepyithar Interrogation Centre. **Sources:** MDHR and VOA News

**30 August 2021:** In Yae Pyar village, Pauk township, Pakokku district, Magway region, two aid workers were arrested by the Myanmar military forces. **Source:** ACLED<sup>2</sup>

## The Philippines

**30 August 2021: Update:** In Quezon city, Calabarzon region, the Sustainable Agriculture programme coordinator of the NGO Farmers Development Centre, abducted from her home by six suspected government agents on 13 June 2020, was reported dead after her family identified her remains at the Saint Peter Memorial Chapel. **Sources: Karapatan and Rappler** 

## Middle East and North Africa

## Syrian Arab Republic

**26 September 2021:** On the outskirts of Al-Hawl town and sub-district, Al-Hasakah district and governorate, masked gunmen threatened Norwegian Refugee Council employees at the the Al-Hol IDP Camp, demanding that they pay USD300 each, and USD500 for colleagues who work outside the camp. In response, the NGO suspended its activities within the camp until at least 04 September, and potentially permanently in one of the camp's 11 sectors due to risks. **Source:** The New Arab

As reported on 27 August 2021: In Daraa city, sub-district, district and governorate, a Syrian Government siege of the Daraa Al-Balad neighbourhoods continued to prevent the entry of humanitarian aid, leading to food shortages. Source: The New Arab

## **The Americas**

#### Haiti

**25 August 2021:** In Santo, Croix-des-Bouquets arrondissement, Ouest department, a female NGO employee was kidnapped by armed perpetrators whilst on her way to work. The victim worked as a laboratory technician and collaborated with a local hospital and prenatal clinic for over 15 years. As a result of the attack, the NGO closed all of their institutions in Haiti except for a hospital A&E department until the victim was released on 28 August 2021. **Sources:** Facebook, Le Nouvelliste, and Mag Haiti

This Bi-Monthly News Brief comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is part of the Aid 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 that affected the provision of aid delivery 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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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The <u>Aid Worker Security Database</u> (AWSD) 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 published in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 09 September 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) <u>database attribution policy</u>. Accessed 09 September 2021.