Protection in Danger
Monthly News Brief

Safety, security and access incidents
Incidents of threats and violence in refugee and IDP settings

Africa

Burkina Faso
02 May 2020: At the Mentao Refugee Camp, Sahel region, security forces conducted house-to-house searches and forced Malian refugee men and boys out of their homes, beating them with sticks, belts and ropes, during a search for suspects involved in an attack on soldiers in the area earlier that day. At least 32 refugees were injured, fourteen seriously. The soldiers accused refugees of complicity with armed groups, giving them an ultimatum to leave the camp within the next 72 hours, or be killed. **Sources: ACLED,**[1] **Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and UNHCR**

30 May 2020: Near Barsalogho commune, Sanmatenga province, unidentified gunmen ambushed a government aid convoy after delivering food to IDPs in the area, killing at least 10 people, including an ambulance driver and a nurse, and injuring about 20 more. **Sources: Al Jazeera, Sahel Security Alerts and TRT World Now**

Niger
26 May 2020: In Tahoua region, approximately 50 fighters with links to al Qaeda and ISIS attacked Intikane Refugee Camp, home to thousands of Malian refugees. The head of the refugee committee, the head of a refugee vigilance group and a representative of a Tahoua nomadic group were killed and a guard kidnapped by the militants in the attack. The camps' water supply and telecommunication equipment were sabotaged, and food supplies and other aid items were torched. **Sources: Africa Radio, Al Jazeera, France 24, Voa Afrique and UNHCR**

South Sudan
Around 5 May 2020: In Wuji village, Lainya county, Central Equatoria state, recently returned refugees and residents were beaten and looted by SPLM-IO rebels. The SPLM-IO deny having forces in the area. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Somalia
07 May 2020: In Mogadishu-Hodan district, Banadir region, civilian vehicles transporting IDPs were shot at by two police officers, wounding three people and a driver. The IDPs were being transported from Hawl Wadaag district to Garasbaaley IDP Camp to receive non-food items and cash for Iftar. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Sudan
10 May 2020: In Bari valley, near Murne village, West Darfur state, an IDP and two farmers were arrested by gunmen. The motives may be related to recent arrests of cattle raiders by local authorities. **Sources: Radio Dabanga**

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

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Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger

14 May 2020: In the Boronro area, Nierteti district, Central Darfur state, IDPs working at a charcoal factory were beaten with whips and rifle butts by Border Guard paramilitaries. Five IDPs were wounded and transferred to Nierteti Hospital. **Source: Radio Dabanga**

27 May 2020: In an unspecified location, Greater Kordofan region, a South Sudanese refugee was killed and four others severely injured when unidentified attackers from the Kadugli area stormed Rahed Refugee Camp. **Source: Eye Radio**

Asia
Bangladesh
02 May 2020: In Hatiya upazila, Noakhali district, Chittagong division, Bangladeshi authorities relocated 29 Rohingya refugees to the Bhasan Char island to prevent a possible COVID-19 outbreak in mainland refugee camps. The island is prone to flooding and does not have an adequate healthcare system. **Source: Al Jazeera**

07 May 2020: Off the coast of the Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, Bangladeshi authorities towed a boat carrying 279 Rohingya refugees to the Bashan Char island, stating that all refugees found at sea would from now on be taken to the controversial site. **Source: RFA**

12 May 2020: In Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, a fire broke out due to a suspected electric short circuit or a possible explosion of a gas cylinder in the Lambashia area of Kutupalong Refugee Camp, injuring around 10 people, destroying at least 250 homes, and partially damaging 350 more. The first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported inside Kutupalong Refugee Camp on 14 May, though reports suggest there were cases prior that had not been tested. **Sources: DW Independent, New Age, Reuters and The New Arab**

31 May 2020: In Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, the first Rohingya refugee to die from COVID-19 in Bangladesh was recorded. The victim was a 71-year-old man. **Source: The Telegraph**

Indonesia
15 May 2020: Off the coast of Aceh province, at least 1,000 Rohingya refugees on board two vessels were stranded at sea, as Indonesia and neighbouring countries tightened their borders to control the spread of COVID-19. **Source: Reuters**

Myanmar
01 May 2020: In Rathedaung township, Sittwe district, Rakhine state, Myanmar authorities ordered local NGOs to stop building makeshift camps for IDPs due to lack of official permits. **Source: RFA**

30 May 2020: At Thaung Da Rar village, Rathedaung Township, Sittwe District, Rakhine State, 5 civilians, among them IDPs, were shot and injured by the Myanmar military who fired across the river. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Europe
Cyprus
05 May 2020: In Kokkinotrimithia village, Nicosia district, residents of the Pournara Asylum Seeker and Refugee Centre went on a hunger strike to demand better living conditions and the right to exit the site. Cypriot authorities have prevented the camps' residents from leaving the site despite the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions across Cyprus. **Source: France 24 and K News**

Greece
15 May 2020: On Lesvos Island, two asylum seekers were diagnosed with COVID-19. Since March 1, individuals reaching Lesbos have been quarantined away from the island's camps, including the extremely overcrowded Moria Camp. **Source: Al Jazeera**

Italy
05 May 2020: In Palermo city, Sicily region, Italian authorities impounded the German-flagged Alan Kurdi and the Spanish-flagged Aita Mari rescue ships, citing technical and operational irregularities. However, the owners said the impounding was intended to block their humanitarian mission. **Source: Al Jazeera**

Malta
01 May 2020: Outside Maltese territorial waters, the Maltese Government refused entry to 57 refugees and asylum seekers rescued at sea, transferring them instead onto a tourist harbour cruise ship until EU Member States reach an agreement to relocate them. Maltese ports remain closed due to COVID-19. **Source: Times of Malta**

03 May 2020: Outside Maltese territorial waters, a German cargo ship that rescued 79 refugees and asylum seekers remained stranded at sea until at least 07 May. **Sources: Times of Malta I and Times of Malta II**

06 May 2020: Outside Maltese territorial waters, the Maltese Government refused entry to 120 refugees and asylum seekers rescued at sea, transferring them instead onto a tourist harbour cruise ship until EU Member States reach an agreement to relocate them. A small number of adults, including a pregnant woman, and children were brought to land for humanitarian reasons. **Source: Times of Malta**

22 May 2020: Outside Maltese territorial waters, the Maltese Government refused entry to approximately 140 refugees and asylum seekers rescued at sea, transferring them instead onto a tourist harbour cruise ship until EU Member States reach an agreement to relocate them. A group of 19, including children, their parents and pregnant women were brought to land for humanitarian reasons. **Source: Al Jazeera**

Middle East and North Africa
Algeria
04 May 2020: In the Ahfar Jarb area, Tindouf commune, Sahrawi refugees were shot at by the Algerian army while trying to escape from Tindouf camps. An unspecified number of people were injured, and others were arrested. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Libya
16 May 2020: In Al Fornaj neighbourhood, Tripoli city, Tripolitania region, suspected Libyan National Army artillery strikes allegedly targeted housing units for IDPs at a university campus, resulting in at least five civilian casualties. **Source: Air Wars**

25 May 2020: Off the coast of Zawiya city and district, Tripolitania region, Libyan Coast Guard officials intercepted 398 migrants and refugees as they were on their way to Europe, bringing them back to detention centres in Libya. **Source: Al Jazeera**

28 May 2020: In Misdah town, Jabal al Gharbi district, Tripolitania region, at a smuggling warehouse, the family of a slain Libyan human trafficker shot and killed a group of 30 migrants, also injuring 11 more, in retaliation after said migrants had killed the trafficker. **Source: AP**

29 May 2020: In Abu Salim, Tripoli, IDP from Tawurgha was killed by an unidentified armed group in front of his family inside the Al Falah Refugee Camp. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Occupied Palestinian Territories
01 May 2020: In the West Bank, the Tulkarm Refugee Camp was stormed by Israeli forces who hurled tear gas canisters at Palestinian refugees. Dozens of Palestinians suffered from tear-gas inhalation. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Syrian Arab Republic

Throughout May 2020: Between Aleppo and Idlib governorates, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham militants in charge of crossings-imposed taxes on IDPs wishing to return to their hometowns, and delaying their journey by imposing lengthy inspection operations. IDPs waiting in front of the crossing without anti-Coronavirus measures in place. **Source: Al-Monitor**

01 May 2020: In Mastumeh village, Idlib district and governorate, an IDP was shot dead by gunmen riding a motorcycle. **Source: ACLED**[1]

04 May 2020: On the outskirts of Kelly village, Idlib governorate, a baby girl was killed in a shooting by unidentified gunmen inside Mazen IDP Camp. **Source: SNHR**

08 May 2020: In al Hol IDP Camp, al-Hasakah governorate, several women were detained during a raid on the foreign IS family's section of the camp by Syrian Democratic Forces. **Source: ACLED**[1]

10 May 2020: In al Zeyara village, Hama governorate, suspected Syrian regime artillery shelling resulted in the death of a female IDP. **Source: SNHR**

11 May 2020: Inside Maram IDP Camp, located near Sarmada city, Idlib governorate, Hay'at Tahrir al Sham fighters arrested three residents, including a woman, and took them to an undisclosed location. **Source: SNHR**

12 May 2020: Inside Maram IDP Camp, near Sarmada city, northern Idlib, two male and one female residents from Hama were arrested by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham fighters and taken to an unknown location. **Source: SOHR**

20 May 2020: Inside al Hol camp, Hasakeh governorate, 7 foreign women believed to be wives of IS members, were reportedly arrested by QSD a day after they had escaped from the camp with the help of several Asayish members. **Source: SOHR**

23 May 2020: In Saju town, Azaz district, Aleppo governorate, an IDP child from Tall Refaat was shot dead by Jamaah Ansharusy Syariah (JAS) members during an argument with a young man at a JAS checkpoint. **Source: SOHR**

23 May 2020: In al Hol camp, Hasakah governorate, as residents were trying to extinguish a fire that broke on the 1st section of the camp, they found the dead body of an Iraqi IDP in front of his tent with several punctures in his skull, likely caused by a sharp tool. Extremist women from IS families are suspected to be involved in his death. **Source: SOHR**

24 May 2020: In al Hol camp, Hasakah governorate, over 40 women and children were arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces allegedly for waving IS flags during the celebrations of Eid. **Sources: ACLED**[1] **and Liveuamap**

Yemen

23 May 2020: In Hays, Al Hudaydah province, a 12-year old IDP girl was injured by Houthi forces with sniper rifles as she was carrying water to her house. **Source: ACLED**[1]

31 May 2020: In Majzar district, Ma'rib governorate, IDPs accused Houthi loyalists of looting their homes. **Source: Newsyemen.net**

Notes

Insecurity Insight monitors local, national and international news outlets and online databases for threats facing people living and working in dangerous environments. Each month we release the latest available information on incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees. You can access data from the **Protection in Danger Monthly News Brief** on HDX Insecurity Insight.

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 05 June 2020.