

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

April
2015

Security Incidents

Africa

Central African Republic

01 April 2015: [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) (MSF) office and staff accommodation in the northern town of Kabo was attacked by unidentified gunmen, who fled with several valuable items.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

23 April 2015: Three employees of a private demining company contracted by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) are believed to have been kidnapped near Kibumba, north of Goma. Nobody has claimed responsibility. The incident occurred in the context of alleged incursion by Rwandan forces into the DRC. [BBC](#), [Yahoo News](#) and [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#) (TRF).

Guinea

According to the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#), only one Ebola response worker was abuse in April. This is a considerable amelioration from up to ten reported incidents at the beginning of the year. Over the past weeks, health workers have made special efforts to explain their work to communities. [AllAfrica](#).

Kenya

01 April 2015: Ten unidentified gunmen attacked the compound of the education NGO Windle Trust in the Dadaab refugee complex in Hagadera, near Garissa. A teacher from the nearby Hagadera Secondary school was killed and three security guards injured. [Daily Nation](#). Such attacks have been common [recently](#).

Mali

There have been several suicide and hit-and-run attacks on the UN mission in northern Mali in April.

01 April 2015: Unidentified attackers shelled the Angoso base of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The attack killed a child and injured a peacekeeper. [TRF](#).

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.

We welcome your [feedback](#). The questionnaire can be completed in 3 minutes, and it will help us understand what kind of monthly information you would be looking for in a database-centered project.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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15 April 2015: A suicide attacker attempted to drive a vehicle with explosives into the same UN base near Gao. He was stopped at the gate but the incident killed at least three civilians and injured nine peacekeepers. [TRF](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

17 April 2015: A UN supply convoy was stopped by gunmen near the town of Gao. Two drivers were killed and a third convoy member was injured. [BBC](#).

20 April 2015: Another UN convoy was attacked. [UN News Centre](#).

23 April 2015: A MINUSMA vehicle struck an explosive device in the north-eastern region of Kidal. Seven UN peacekeepers were wounded. [UN News Centre](#).

28 April 2015: Members of the Tuareg rebel group shot bullets towards UN peacekeepers. Tension had been growing between rebels and government troops in the Timbuktu Region. The Tuareg stated that they mistook the peacekeepers for government army officials. Nobody was wounded. [The New York Times](#) and [TRF](#).

Somalia

Mid-April 2015: According to [AllAfrica](#), seven local and foreign humanitarians working for a French relief agency and a money transfer company were kidnapped in the southern region of Gedo by a group of heavily armed men, thought to be al Shabaab.

20 April 2015: Seven people were killed, among them four UNICEF workers when a roadside bomb exploded in Garowe, in north Puntland. Five UNICEF workers were injured ([UNICEF](#), [OutbreakNews](#)). Two of the dead worked on polio eradication. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility. [UN](#), [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#), [News24 \(1\)](#), [News24 \(2\)](#), [Reuters](#), [The New York Times](#) and [TRF](#).

South Sudan

01 April 2015: Three local UN World Food Programme (WFP) workers went missing in the Upper Nile State. They left Malakal with a food convoy travelling towards Melut. Ethnic fighting broke out on that route that day. [Reuters](#), [TRF](#), [Radio Tamazuj](#).

April 2015: Two aid workers were detained for several hours alongside 15 contracted commercial trucks drivers. [Radio Tamazuj](#).

Sudan

9 April 2015: A UNDP minibus was hijacked by unidentified gunmen in the neighbourhood of Hay Almatarr in the capital of Nyala, South Darfur State. The driver was threatened at gunpoint and ordered to drive the vehicle out of town. [Sudan Tribune](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

10 April 2015: Five Save the Children workers were found in the district of Chanarto in Uruzgan Province. The group had been kidnapped by Taliban militants on 3 March. They were killed when the kidnappers' demands for prisoner release were turned down. [The Guardian](#), [TRF](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

19 April 2015: A group of unidentified gunmen abducted 19 local deminers in the south-eastern province of Paktia and stole four vehicles. [ToloNews](#).

12 April 2015: According to [Afghan Online Press](#), Taliban militants torched a health clinic in Alinegar District in the eastern province of Laghman. (No direct link to the story is available).

Pakistan

23 April 2015: The United States of America (USA) announced that two previously-abducted aid workers had been accidentally killed in a drone strike on an al Qaeda compound close to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border last January. Warren Weinstein, a US national, was kidnapped in 2011. Giovanni Lo Porto, an Italian, was held hostage since 2012. [The Irish Times](#), [The New York Times \(1\)](#). For information specifically on the victims visit [Foreign Policy](#) and [The New York Times \(2\)](#) respectively.

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

01 April 2015: The Islamic State (ISIS) took control of most of Yarmouk Refugee Camp for Palestinians, a few kilometres away from President Assad's palace in the republic's capital Damascus. According to [Amnesty International](#), at least 18 civilians, including one humanitarian worker, have been killed by sniper fire or aerial attacks since the invasion. Six volunteers were injured when one of the two functioning medical facilities in the camp, the Palestine Hospital, was struck by a missile. [The Guardian](#).

07 April 2015: Two Syrian Arab Red Crescent volunteers, one from the Edlib the other from the Maaret al-Nouman branch were killed while retrieving bodies and setting up shelter respectively. [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#).

07 April 2015: A member of [Caritas](#) Syria died at his home in Aleppo when his apartment collapsed during heavy shelling in the neighbourhood.

12 April 2015: A school in a rebel-held area in the city of Aleppo was destroyed in an air strike led by the Syrian security forces. Nine people, including five children, were killed. [TRF](#).

Yemen

31 March 2015: A Yemen Red Crescent Society was killed in the governorate of Ad Dali`. [ICRC Blog](#).

03 April 2015: Two [Red Crescent](#) volunteers were shot dead by a sniper while evacuating wounded in Aden into an ambulance. [Newsweek](#). The ambulance was taken by the attackers. [NPR](#) and [MSF](#).

April 2015: According to undetailed information from [UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (UNHCHR), eight hospitals were hit in Sana's, Sa'da, Dhale and Aden.

16 April 2015: [MSF](#) stated that an explosion took place near the emergency surgical unit in Aden, causing minor damages to the building, and putting health staff and patients at risk.

20 April 2015: The offices of [International Medical Corps](#) (IMC) were damaged in the air strike which injured six staff members. A warehouse with medical supplies was also hit.

20 April 2015: One of [Oxfam's](#) warehouses containing humanitarian supplies was hit in the northern Houthi stronghold of Saada Governorate. [TRF](#).

20 April 2015: The Sana'a office of [Action Against Hunger](#) where 15 staff were working was damaged in air strikes, but nobody was injured.

24 April 2015: A large piece of shrapnel landed 30 metres away from a public hospital in Haradh where [MSF](#) staffers were treating wounded. The attacks led to a mass movement of the population, among them several health workers from the hospital.

April 2015: Armed groups have seized hospital ambulances in Aden. One hospital is said to be without any ambulances [International Business Times](#).

	Total of new incidents reported (from open sources)	Country	Staff affected
Kidnappings	3	DRC, Somalia, Afghanistan	3 International deminers, 7 unspecified humanitarians, 19 local deminers
Missing	2	South Sudan, Sudan	3 WFP convoy workers, UNDP driver during hijacking
Deaths	11	Kenya ¹ , Mali, Somalia ² , Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria ³ , Yemen ⁴	Teacher in education project, 2 supply truck drivers, 4 UNICEF workers, 5 kidnapped INGO workers, 2 kidnapped aid workers ⁵ , unspecified humanitarian worker, 2 SARC volunteers, 1 Caritas worker, 3 YRCS workers ⁶
Injured	4	Kenya ¹ , Somalia ² , Syria, Yemen	Security guards, 5 UNICEF workers, volunteers at a health facility, 6 IMC staff
Detained	1	South Sudan	2 humanitarian workers

Security-related access restraints

Africa

Central African Republic

[MSF](#) evacuated its foreign staff to the capital and suspended some its medical activities in Kabo Hospital in response to the incident that took place on 1 April (see above).

OHCHR suspended one of its employees for passing a confidential report to prosecutors in France, detailing sexual abuse of boys by French peacekeeping troops. [The Guardian](#).

Kenya

Up to 70 health workers fled Garissa following the widely reported University Massacre on 2 April. [BuzzFeed News](#).

In response to the attack, Kenya's Deputy President William Ruot asked the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to close the refugee complex of Dadaab within three months. The Government believes that

¹ These are the same events.

² These are the same events.

³ 4 separate incidents.

⁴ 2 separate incidents.

⁵ The information was released in April. The deaths occurred in January.

⁶ 2 separate incidents.

al Shabaab extremists are hiding inside the camp. It remains unclear whether he spoke for the government. [BBC](#), [TRF](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

Somalia

Kenya suspended the licenses of 13 Somali money transfer companies on 8 April. The anti-terrorism measure wants to curb the financing of the hard-line Islamist group al Shabaab but also affects humanitarian agencies who use such money transfer services to sustain their humanitarian and development interventions inside Somalia. [TRF](#).

South Sudan

Renewed clashes in the Upper Nile State affected humanitarian access in the vital weeks before the May-June rains. [TRF](#). [MSF](#) suspended some of its outreach activities due to the violence. WFP suspended its food aid deliveries following the disappearance of its convoy staff (see above). [ZeeNews](#).

On the third week of April, several international aid organisations evacuated some staff from the rebel-controlled town of Pagak to Juba. Members of the former vice president Machar's rebel group allegedly occupied NGO compounds in search of accommodation during their one-week leadership conference in the area. [Sudan Tribune](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

On April 11, the US Embassy in Afghanistan issued a security warning that militants planned to launch a series of attacks against NGOs operating in a number of provinces. [OSAC](#).

Myanmar

On 21 April, local relief workers were barred by military checkpoints from providing assistance to 100s of internally displaced villagers in Kyauktaw Township in the state of Arakan. [The Irrawaddy](#).

North Korea

Early in April, North Korea expelled a US aid worker over allegations of propagandizing against the country under the pretext of humanitarianism. The woman is the founder of the Los Angeles-based Wheat Mission Ministries and began work inside North Korea in 1989 in response to the famine. [Reuters](#), [LA Times](#) and [UPI](#).

Europe

Ukraine

Pro-Russian rebels closed down the offices of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Donetsk. Masked gunmen, working for the state security ministry of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, raided and searched their office in the rebel-held city of Donetsk. They accused IRC of spying and hiding spy equipment in their offices. Several staff members were briefly detained and then transported to Kiev. [BBC](#).

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

The UN Security Council and the ICRC have called on ISIS to allow humanitarian and medical aid to the population inside the ISIS controlled Yarmouk refugee camp. Access to the area has been difficult since October 2014. [TRF \(1\)](#), [TRF \(2\)](#), [BBC](#).

Yemen

Deployment and aid delivery constraints

The arrival of MSF medical staff by boat was held up until 8 April [MSF](#). Aid supply deliveries by air from the ICRC and UNICEF did not reach Yemen until 10 and 14 April. Negotiations between the ICRC and the Saudi Arabia-led coalition of eight nations, who control the air space and ports, took nearly a week.

Logistical problems and heavy fighting prevented the aid from reaching Yemen for another five and nine days after permission had been granted on 5 April. [Reuters \(1\)](#), [Reuters \(2\)](#), [Kuwait Times](#), [Reuters](#), [The Straits Times](#), [TRF](#), [Reuters](#), [UNICEF](#), [Reuters \(1\)](#) and [Reuters \(3\)](#).

On 15 April five merchant ships carrying food supplies were blocked off the coast of Yemen awaiting search for weapons by warship personnel belonging to the Arab coalition. [Reuters](#).

On 28 April, an aircraft belonging to the Saudi Arabia-led coalition bombed the runway of Sanaa Airport as an Iranian Red Crescent plane with aid supplies was approaching to land. The State of Oman and Houthis controlling Sana'a airport had given the plane permission. The plane was forced to turn back. [The Guardian](#).

Ground access constraints

[MSF](#) reports that its health staff working in the hospital in Aden cannot leave the hospital. Since the beginning of April, the number of patients reaching hospitals has gone down as road blocks prevent access and fuel shortage makes transport difficult. [TRF](#), [MSF](#). The lack of electricity prevents surgery in some hospitals. [TRF](#), [UN News Centre \(1\)](#).

In the context of unpredictable violence, aid agencies find it hard to reach internally displaced and other vulnerable people who struggle with increasing food and water shortage. [IRIN \(1\)](#), [IRIN \(2\)](#), [UN News Centre \(2\)](#). International aid staff has largely been evacuated and some agencies find that their local staff is not in a position to continue working as they feel the need to seek safety. [Oxfam](#).

