

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

May
2015

Security Incidents

Africa

Mali

20 May 2015: An unidentified gunman tried to set fire to UN vehicles, and shot in the direction of the cars and the house where UN peacekeepers stayed in Bamako. It was the first attack on UN troops in the capital. [Reuters](#).

21 May 2015: A local staff member of ACF-Spain was killed in northern Mali during clashes between pro-government forces and rebel militias. The precise circumstances of his death are not known. [TRF](#).

Nigeria

02 May 2015: A senior nurse with the Federal Medical Centre was abducted (no further information available).

07 May 2015: A former Chief Medical Director of Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH) and his wife were kidnapped from near their home in the state capital by unknown gunmen. Their current whereabouts remain unknown. [Daily Times](#).

South Sudan

19 May 2015: The premises of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan in Melut were hit by two mortar bombs, killing several internally displaced people. More information at [Trust](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

27 May 2015: [Trócaire](#) reported that their office in Melut was broken into and looted during fighting between government and rebel forces. Trócaire staff took shelter in the UN compound during the shelling.

25 May 2015: The [ICRC](#) reported that four of its vehicles and all its office furniture were looted from the office in Leer during the fighting in mid-May.

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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Asia

Afghanistan

03 May 2015: Three INGO national staff members were killed in an ambush on a project site near Kakrak, in Southern Afghanistan (no further information available).

04 May 2015: The driver of a de-mining NGO was abducted in Balkh province. He was released on 07 May 2015 (no further information available).

13 May 2015: Gunmen attacked the Park Palace Hotel in the Wazir Akbar Khan area in Kabul killing 15 civilians, among them eight aid workers. Two Afghans worked for the NGO Action Aid, three for the Aga Khan Foundation, one British Afghan was employed by the British Council. The other foreign dead are the Indian Director of the NGO Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and the American former Director of the AREU. The Taliban claimed responsibility for this incident, stating that their intention was to attack “invaders”. More information on the specific attack on [Afghanistan Analysts](#) and [BBC](#). Similar high profile attacks during May in the same area that did not kill aid workers on [BBC](#) and [Reuters](#).

Update

A German GIZ employee, kidnapped on 19 April during a taxi ride from Kunduz to Balkh Province, is free since 28/29 May 2015. According to his own account, he was able to escape. According to some police sources, a rescue operation took place. Some media sources speculate that he was freed due to the intervention of elders, and that ransom may have been paid or that prisoners were released. Information in English on [DW](#). Additional information in German on [Berliner Kurier](#), [Kölner Stadtanzeiger](#) and [General Anzeiger Bonn](#).

Pakistan

19 May 2015: A team of health workers was attacked by a gunman in the Tambulak area of Mardan district in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The attacker was killed and one police constable and a female health worker were injured. More information on [Daily Times](#), [DAWN](#) and [Tribune](#).

Middle-East

Yemen

21 May 2015: An international humanitarian aid office in the town of Maydee along Yemen’s border with Saudi Arabia in Hajja province was reportedly shelled by the Saudi forces on 21 May 2015. Saudi forces blamed Houthi rebels. More information on [Reuters](#) and [RT](#).

	Total of new incidents reported (from open sources)	Country	Staff affected
Kidnappings	2	Nigeria	Health staff
Deaths	9	Mali, Afghanistan	Local staff and international staff
Injured	1	Pakistan	Polio worker

Security-related access restraints

Africa

Burundi

15 May 2015: Some agencies evacuated staff as a precaution to the political unrest following the failed attempt by generals to topple President Nkurunziza. Other agencies are staying for the moment because they don't believe that foreigners are a target of violence. [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#) (TRF).

Kenya

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) pulled out 42 staff from the Somali refugee complex of Dadaab in Northern Kenya due to the rising frequency of Al Shabaab attacks in Kenyan village over the last weeks. Two of four MSF health posts are closed and antenatal services have been suspended. [AllAfrica](#), [MSF \(1\)](#), [MSF \(2\)](#) and [NDTV](#).

Mali

ACF-Spain has suspended its activities in Northern Mali in response to the death of one of its employees (see "Security incidents"). [TRF](#).

Nigeria

Management at the Ekiti teaching hospital ordered staff to stop providing health services until their kidnapped colleagues are found and the government takes adequate security measures. [Daily Times](#).

South Sudan

Unity State - Security concerns seriously hamper access in many parts of Unity State. According to the UN some 300,000 people are without access to aid. [BBC](#) and [MSF](#) reported that around 200,000 people are without healthcare.

UN agencies and NGOs, including the ICRC and MSF evacuated staff from Leer, a small town in Unity State controlled by the rebels, as the violence intensified in early May. On 09 May 2015, MSF stated that it was forced to pull its foreign staff out and halt all medical services as government forces prepared the attack the area. [Borglobe](#), [Daily Mail Online](#) and [Yahoo News](#). Agencies returned to Leer at the end of the month to find a devastated city. [ICRC](#).

Fighting and insecurity in the town of Bantiu in Unity State during this month have also forced [MSF](#) to suspend several mobile clinics in the surrounding areas.

Jonglei - [MSF](#) reports that the hospital in the town of Phom El-Zeraf has been destroyed, leaving people in that area with few alternatives for medical care.

Upper Nile - On 27 May 2015, [Trócaire](#) reported that it had suspended its activities in Melut due to fighting between government and rebel forces. They had served some 20,000 people. [MSF](#) continues to provide life-saving medical assistance to people wounded in the fighting in Melut but is unable to fly in medical supplies and personnel as planes are unable to land.

On 13 May 2015, the parliament of South Sudan has passed a bill regulating the activities of NGOs and introducing restrictions. Humanitarian workers fear the new regulations will have a "catastrophic effect" on the ability to deliver aid. Information about the new requirements and regulations on [IRIN](#), [News24](#), [Sudan Tribune](#) and [TRF](#).

More information on the chronic cycle of violence in South Sudan, including its impact on health facilities and humanitarian operations on [BarakaFM](#), [TRF](#) and [Tribune](#).

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

For a week during the month of May, UNRWA stopped its humanitarian operations in Yarmouk Refugee Camp in Syria due to security concerns. Activities were resumed on 11 May 2015. More information on [UNWRA](#). For information on the latest aid deliveries by UNICEF in Yarmouk visit [TRF](#).

Yemen

Many commercial shipping companies are no longer prepared to import goods to Yemen. Those that still do, face long delays in ports as Saudi-led coalition warships search for weapons. Read more on [TRF](#). Fuel shortages hamper food transport and medical care at a time when fuel requirements have dramatically increased (the WFP needs 25 times as much fuel at present than before the conflict). [TRF \(1\)](#), [TRF \(2\)](#) & [TRF \(3\)](#).

