

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

AUGUST
2015

Security Incidents

Africa

Burundi

3 August 2015: A human rights activist and government critic was shot and wounded by gunmen on motorcycles in Bujumbura in what appears to have been an assassination attempt. The victim had previously been imprisoned for allegedly endangering security in the country. [The Guardian \(a\)](#) and [The Guardian \(b\)](#).

Central African Republic

20 August 2015: Two ICRC team members were injured in the region of Bambari as they evacuated wounded during an outbreak of renewed inter-communal violence that left at least five civilians dead and eight others injured. According to UNDSS, three aid workers were injured. [Yahoo News](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

21 August 2015: Armed robbers intercepted a two-vehicle INGO convoy on the Kanyabayonga-Kikuku road in the area of Mutunda, Kyaghala village, and stole valuables and mobile phones. No further information available.

Mali

08 August 2015: Five UN contractors died and four others survived a hostage-taking in the town of Sévaré, which had not previously experienced extremist attacks. Eight other people, among them Mali soldiers and the hostage takers, died. The fighters first targeted a military base. After being repelled by Mali soldiers, they stormed two hotels, one of them popular among workers of the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Government soldiers surrounded the hotel and the standoff continued for nearly 24 hours. The four surviving UN contractors had been hiding without being discovered by the attackers. According to a statement, the extremists were linked to the Algerian jihadist Mokhtar Belmokhtar, who runs his own extremist Al-Murabitoun group. More information on [BBC](#), [CNN](#), [France24](#), [Reuters](#), [UN News Centre](#), [Washington Times](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

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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South Sudan

06 August 2015: Approximately 20 armed men tried to steal items from an INGO nutrition centre in the town of Rubkona, Unity State, but fled when an UNMISS patrol arrived. No further information available.

09 August 2015: Three armed criminals broke into an INGO compound in the area of Tongping, at 4h30 am. They tied up the two unarmed guards in the compound, and broke into the house occupied by two international staff members. They stole computers, phones, and cash. No further information available.

22 August 2015: Several armed men entered the compound of an INGO in Tongping at night and held the security guards at gunpoint. One guard was assaulted with a machete, another guard was shot when he responded to the attack. The attackers stole two firearms left behind by the South Sudan National Police who usually guard the premise. No further information available.

22 August 2015: About 15 armed men broke into an INGO clinic in the Rubkona PoC site during the night and stole medicines and other items. No further information available.

25 August 2015: Two national MSF workers were killed in separate attacks in the surrounding areas of Leer, Unity State. The first killing occurred in the village of Wulu, and the second in Payak. The circumstances of the deaths are unknown. More information on [MSF](#) and [News24](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

10 August 2015: Two contractors for a demining INGO were abducted while travelling between Kandahar City and the town of Musa Qala. The victims were later released, following negotiations by the community elders. No further information available.

10 August 2015: Two health workers were abducted from a local medical clinic in the village of Kamori in Moqur District, Baghdis Province. The victims were released on 14 August 2015, following negotiations by the community elders. No further information available.

10 August 2015: A midwife employed by a national health NGO was stabbed in her home in the village of Khwaja Qoshri in Khwaja Sabz Posh District, Faryab Province. The attackers then set fire to the nearby clinic. No further information available.

16 August 2015: Three INGO staff members were abducted while travelling on the Kunduz-Khanabad road in the remote Khuja Pesta area of Khanabad District. They were released on the same day, following intervention by local community elders. No further information available.

17 August 2015: A German woman employed by GIZ was abducted from her car outside the GIZ office by unidentified gunmen in the central neighbourhood of Qala-e-Fatullah, Kabul. According to unnamed workers, the GIZ office had been under lockdown since the preceding week following threats. [DW](#).

Pakistan

04 August 2015: Three NGO staff were temporarily detained during a visit of an urban WASH project in Jacobabad, Sindh Province after a complaint by a local contractor. No further information available.

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

07 - 10 August 2015: Three MSF-supported hospitals in the governorate of Idlib and six health facilities in the western Syria came under fire during airstrikes by the Syrian Armed Forces. In Idlib, 11 people died from the attacks, including three hospital workers. Two ambulances, a generator and a laboratory were destroyed, and three other ambulances damaged. More information on [ReliefWeb](#).

Yemen

07 August 2015: A French woman, kidnapped in February, was freed by her captors and returned home. Read the story on [BBC](#).

24 August 2015: A group of unidentified gunmen raided the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the southern port city of Aden. The assailants held staff members at gunpoint and stole cars, cash and equipment. More information on [Humanosphere](#), [ICRC](#), [New York Times](#) and [Reuters](#).

	Total of new incidents reported (from open sources)	Country	Staff affected
Kidnappings	4	Afghanistan	1 Int. GIZ staff still held, 3 INGO nat. staff, released 2 health workers, released 2 deminers, released
Deaths	4	Syria South Sudan Mali	3 MSF health workers 2 MSF health workers 5 UN workers
Injured	2	Central African Republic Afghanistan	1 international, 1 national ICRC staff, 1 midwife ¹
Assaults	3	Yemen South Sudan	ICRC staff held at gunpoint, security guards assaulted
Arrests	1	Pakistan	3 national staff members

¹ The available information is unclear as to whether the mid wife was injured or killed.

Security-related access restraints

Africa

Central African Republic

20 August 2015: The UN imposed temporary restriction of movement following rising tension in Bambari. [Yahoo News](#).

Mali

14 August 2015: Relief organisations stated that they are unable to effectively and safely deliver food and medicine to the most vulnerable communities in parts of Mali due to roadside bombs and continued fighting in the country. Read more on [Reuters](#).

South Sudan

14 August 2015: The [UN News Centre](#) reported that relief agencies are again able to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable people in the town of Malakal, Upper Nile State, after the month-long nationwide restrictions on the movement of goods by air and river routes have been lifted.

Asia

Afghanistan

18 August 2015: GIZ temporarily suspended its operations in Afghanistan's capital Kabul following the abduction of one of its key staff members. More information on [Tolo News](#).

Myanmar

17 August 2015: Myanmar's military has blocked access to the township of Sumprabum, Kachin State, amid fighting between government and the Kachin Independence Army. Food supply for displaced people in makeshift camps in the jungle are running low. For more details, visit [IRIN](#).

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

27 August 2015: After months of waiting, the Syrian Government agreed to grant 47 visas to UN workers. Read the story on [Channel News Asia](#).

Yemen

18 August 2015: Difficulties in bringing food and necessary supplies into Yemen continue. Air strikes at the port of Hodeida in the west of Yemen destroyed four cranes and warehouses [Devex](#) and [Reuters](#).

25 August 2015: The ICRC temporarily suspended its operations and relocated 14 staff from Aden following the attack on its office. More information on [Humanosphere](#), [ICRC](#), [New York Times](#) and [Reuters](#).

