

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

October
2015

Security Incidents

Africa

Burundi

13 October 2015: One national staff member was shot in Bujumbura. No further information available.

Central African Republic

1 October 2015: Gangs ransacked several offices and residences of humanitarian organisations, including those of Action Against Hunger, during the outbreak of violence following the murder of a Muslim man on 26 September. [The Guardian \(a\)](#) and [Reuters \(b\)](#).

18 October 2015: Suspected anti-Balaka armed elements ambushed a Formed Police Unit (FPU) detachment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) near the town of Boali, Ombella-M'Poko Prefecture, and briefly detained seven FPU staff. In the same prefecture and on the same day, a MINUSCA military post in Damara came under fire. In the exchange of fire, one suspect was shot dead and United Nations (UN) peacekeepers recovered light weapons from the vicinity. No further information available.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

30 October 2015: Two aid workers from Concern Worldwide were snatched from their vehicle by four unidentified gunmen in the outskirts of Kibua, North Kivu Province. They were released unharmed a few hours later. [RFI](#).

Kenya

12 October 2015: Masked gunmen, suspected to be members of Al-Shabaab, hijacked a vehicle in the Hagardera Refugee Camp, Dadaab. They abducted a Kenyan teacher working for the Windle Trust and took her to Dhagaha, in the outskirts of Dhoobley, Somalia, from where she was rescued three days later in a joint mission of Kenyan Defence Forces and Jubbaland troops. The driver may have been released shortly after the incident according to one source. Sources: [Shabelle News](#), [Standard Digital News \(a\)](#) and [Standard Digital News \(b\)](#).

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is an Aid in Danger product prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

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

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Mali

20 October 2015: Gunmen robbed and carjacked an NGO vehicle in Intibakatene, 20 kilometres south of Menaka, Gao Region. The two staff members were not injured and were able to return to Menaka. No further information available.

South Sudan

3 and/or 4 October 2015: Dozens of gunmen entered an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) compound in Leer County, Unity State, and stole money, medical supplies, equipment and two vehicles. Employees were threatened, but nobody was injured. Sources: [Radio Tamazuj](#) and [Humanosphere](#).

7 October 2015: Gunmen robbed relief workers from the International Aid Services on the road between Maridi and Yambio, Western Equatoria State and stole a hands-free speakerphone. [Radio Tamazuj](#).

07 October 2015: Military and civilian personnel from the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) were stopped and physically assaulted by members of the South Sudanese army between Juba and the township of Wonduruba Payam, Central Equatoria State. Source: [Sudan Tribune](#).

23 October 2015: A convoy of trucks carrying UN food items was stopped between the town of Bazia and the city of Wau, Western Bahr al Ghazal State by an armed group wearing the uniform of the South Sudanese army. The drivers were threatened with guns and forced to drive the trucks into the bush, where several other people arrived to offload the goods. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#).

26 October 2015: Heavily armed rebel fighters seized a UNMISS fuel barge in the north of Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile State and kidnapped 31 crew members. The 18 abducted Bangladeshi peacekeepers were freed on 29 October and the 13 South Sudanese contractors were released on 1 November. Sources: [Deutsche Welle](#), [NDTV](#), [Reuters](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

3 October 2015: A fully-functioning MSF hospital in Kunduz was repeatedly hit by the United States (US) air force during an hour-long series of aerial bombing raids. This occurred as Afghan forces fought to retake the city from the Taliban, who had taken control of the city for three days at the end of September. The bombing caused severe damage to the medical compound. 461 staff and 105 patients were inside the facility at the time of the air strikes. As of the end of October, 30 people had died as a direct consequence of the event, of these 13 were MSF staff and 10 were patients. 7 bodies could not be identified. 27 people are confirmed injured.

The US Defence Secretary, Ash Carter, first referred to the incident as a mistake and a case of collateral damage. The Pentagon then claimed that the hospital was struck after US troops were fired upon by the Taliban. Later, the US Commander in Afghanistan, General John Campbell, said the air strike was originally requested by Afghan forces and subsequently authorised by the American Special Operations Forces from the outskirts of Kunduz. Kabul, on the other hand, stated that Taliban insurgents were, at the time, inside the now-raised compound.

MSF stated that it had communicated the precise location of its facilities to all warring parties before the attack. MSF is asking for a transparent international inquiry under the Geneva Conventions. On 7 October, the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, an independent humanitarian commission formed in 1991, informed the US and Afghan Governments that it is ready to launch an

investigation. Such an investigation requires the consent from the governments of the United States and Afghanistan. On 15 October, MSF complained about an unannounced and forced entry into the ruined compound by a US investigative team which damaged the gate of the property. This caused stress and fear amongst MSF employees who were inside at the time, and potentially destroyed war crime evidence. Sources: [The Washington Post \(19/10\)](#) and [The Guardian \(15/10\)](#).

Sources are displayed in reverse chronological order: [MSF USA \(24/10\)](#), [The New York Times \(24/10\)](#), [The New York Times \(20/10\)](#), [The Guardian \(15/10\)](#), [Business Insider \(14/10\)](#), [The Guardian \(12/10\)](#), [Reuters \(10/10\)](#), [The Guardian \(10/10\)](#), [The Washington Post \(10/10\)](#), [ATHA \(08/10\)](#), [Reuters \(08/10\)](#), [USA Today \(08/10\)](#), [IRIN \(07/10\)](#), [MSF \(07/10\)](#), [Reuters \(07/10\)](#), [The New York Times \(07/10\)](#), [MSF USA \(06/10\)](#), [Reuters \(06/10\)](#), [The Washington Post \(06/10\)](#), [IRIN \(05/10\)](#), [New Yorker \(05/10\)](#), [The New York Times \(05/10\)](#), [Reuters \(05/10\)](#), [MSF \(04/10\)](#), [Foreign Policy \(03/10\)](#), [MSF USA \(03/10\)](#), [MSF USA \(03/10\)](#), [MSF USA \(03/10\)](#), [Reuters \(03/10\)](#), [The New York Times \(03/10\)](#) and [US Department of Defence \(03/10\)](#).

Personal accounts: [Foreign Policy](#), [MSF UK](#) and [The New York Times](#).

5 October 2015: The office of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Kunduz was looted during fighting. [Norwegian Refugee Council](#).

5 October 2015: Members of the National Directorate of Security of the Afghan Government broke into an ambulance in a clinic operated by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in Wardak Province because they suspected that explosives were hidden inside. They detained two staff members overnight. Source: [Reuters](#).

5 October 2015: Two staff members of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission were killed when their vehicle was hit by a roadside explosive device in the city of Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, Eastern Afghanistan. Four or six other people were injured. [New China](#) and [Tolo News](#).

8 October 2015: The head of another SCA run clinic in Wardak was kidnapped by a group of unidentified gunmen who later promised local elders to release him on condition that he would leave the district within a month. Source: [Reuters](#).

08 October 2015: Medical workers from a health facility in Farah Province panicked following rumours that the city was to be attacked. [Reuters](#).

12 October 2015: A national staff member of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was gunned down by unidentified persons on a motorcycle as she was travelling from home to her workplace in the city of Kandahar. [The Big Story](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

13 October 2015: Nine de-miners from a UN agency implementing partner were abducted, and demining and communications equipment taken from the area of Nas Dara, Bagram District. The de-miners were freed in an Afghan National Security Forces rescue mission. The abductors fled with the stolen equipment. No further information available.

24 October 2015: Seven local NGO employees were abducted in the Qabr-i-Wardak area of Kohistan District together with two family members. On 25 October five of the staff members and two children were released unharmed. Two staff members are still being held. No further information available.

25 October 2015: Five health workers from the civil hospital of Kohistan District, Faryab Province, were kidnapped from their car on the road from the provincial city, Maimana, to Kohistan. [Khamaa Press](#).

Update

The previously-abducted German GIZ aid worker has been freed after two months of captivity. The woman was kidnapped last August in Kabul. [Deutsche Welle and Tolo News](#).

Bangladesh

3 October 2015: A Japanese JICA volunteer was fatally shot by two bike-riding assailants as he was riding a rickshaw in the village of Mahiganj, Kaunia Upazila, Rangour District, Northern Bangladesh. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the shooting, but the Bangladeshi Government said there is no evidence supporting their claim. Sources: [Gulf Times](#), and [The Washington Post](#).

Pakistan

17 October 2015: A number of unidentified men on motorcycles harassed a female polio vaccinator and stole a bag containing personal valuables. She was threatened with physical harm if she did not cease her work in the Shagai Hindkyan area, Peshawar. Sources: [Safeguarding Health in Conflict](#).

Middle-East

Occupied Palestinian Territories

14 October 2015: A British volunteer from the Olive Harvest Trust, who was trying to protect Palestinian farmers during the olive harvest, sustained injuries at the head when a group of eight or nine Israeli settlers threw rocks at him in the vicinity of Burin, in the West Bank. [Independent](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

2 October 2015: A SAMS foundation supported field clinic in Hama Governorate, Northern Syria, was hit by Russian air strikes. Two nurses and a hospital guard were injured. Medication, supplies, an electric generator and an ambulance were severely damaged. [SAMS Foundation](#).

19 October 2015: Two SAMS foundation supported hospitals in the southern governorate of Aleppo were hit by Russian air strikes. [SAMS Foundation](#).

19 October 2015: Five locals from the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria were stopped at a checkpoint in the town of Sehnaya, Southern Syria. Communication with the team was interrupted, and no contact has been established since. GPS locates both vehicles in different parts of Damascus. The Syrian authorities have been approached to locate the personnel and vehicles. No further information available.

20 October 2015: A field clinic run by the Syrian-American Medical Society in the town of Sarmin, Idlib Governorate, North-Western Syria, was hit by Russian air strikes. The incident killed 13 people, including a nurse and a physiotherapist. [Al Arabiya News](#) and [The New York Times](#).

22 October 2015: Fighter jets bombed four field clinics located in Al Harb and Al Eis, Aleppo Governorate, and Kafr Zita and Latamneh, Hama Governorate. International medical organisations allege that health facilities in rebel-held areas are being targeted in a systematic manner, blaming the regime of Bashar al Assad for 90 percent of the attacks. [The Guardian](#).

Yemen

13 October 2015: An NGO worker was detained by Al-Qaeda affiliates in Mukalla. No further information available.

17 October 2015: An aid worker from the United Arab Emirates was shot dead by unknown gunmen when he exited his armoured Land Cruiser outside a shop in Aden, Southern Yemen. [Euronews](#) and

[Reuters](#).

26 October 2015: A MSF run hospital, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organisation was destroyed by Saudi-led military coalition air strikes in the rebel-held Haydan District, Saada Province, Northern Yemen. Around a dozen health workers and patients were inside the facility at the time but were able to evacuate before the facility was completely destroyed. One staff member sustained slight injuries while escaping and two patients were injured during the evacuation. The medical charity stated that it had regularly relayed the GPS coordinates of the hospital with the coalition, and that the roof of the building was clearly marked with its painted name and logo. Sources: [MSF](#), [The Muslim News](#), [The New York Times](#), [Yahoo News \(a\)](#) and [Yahoo News \(b\)](#).

Oceania

Nauru

17 and 21 October 2015: Police raided the offices of Save the Children workers and seized electronic items, such as personal phones, desktop computers, and laptops. The action is thought to be linked to stories about assaults against asylum seekers in Nauru's immigration detention centres. [The Guardian](#).

The Americas

Haiti

20 October 2015: A UN national staff member was shot dead in the Martissant 9 area of Port-au-Prince while reportedly seeking transportation to come to work. The incident occurred in the context of violent demonstrations and armed attacks between rival groups. No further information available.

Security-related access restraints

Africa

Central African Republic

Some 200 aid workers were relocated from the Central African Republic following outbreak of violence in late September. The Red Cross says it has been unable to reach some of the hardest-hit neighbourhoods of the capital Bangui, amid clashes between Christian and Muslim militias, which started at the end of last month after a young Muslim man was killed. MSF reported that the injured may have no access its health facilities for emergency assistance. Sources: [The Guardian \(a\)](#) [Reuters \(b\)](#), [The Guardian \(b\)](#), [Reuters \(a\)](#), [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#), [UN News Centre \(a\)](#) and [UN News Centre \(b\)](#).

19 October 2015: Some NGO staff were temporarily relocated from the city of Bria, Haute-Kotto Prefecture, to the country's capital Bangui due to potential risks related to the recent death of an ex-Séléka leader. No further information available.

Guinea-Conakry

6 October 2015: The Danish Refugee Council imposed a curfew on its employees in the city of Nzérékoré, Nzérékoré Region, and evacuated its foreign staff as violent clashes between supporters of President Condé and the opposition erupted in the outskirts of the city, which later spread to the centre. No further information available.

Kenya

30 October 2015: The NGO Coordination Board of Kenya announced that the registration certificates of 959 local NGOs is to be cancelled because they failed to properly account for their funding. A further 15 unspecified organisations are being investigated on suspicion of funding Al-Shabaab. Supporters of the

affected NGOs claim that the move is part of a wider presidential political agenda aimed at intimidating and repressing a robust civil sector. Source: [The Star](#) and [IRIN](#).

Mali

21 October 2015: A group of 80 organisations, including Oxfam and Save the Children, have requested that the Malian Government and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali remove the prohibition of humanitarian flights in Kidal Region, North-Western Mali. Since January 2015, aid agencies have not been able to fly supplies into the region due to insecurity and a damaged runway. [NewsOK](#).

South Sudan

5 October 2015: The ICRC announced that it would evacuate its staff from Leer County, Unity State following the looting of its compound. Sources: [Radio Tamazuj](#) and [Humanosphere](#).

06 October 2015: The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said relief organisations have, for the first time since June 2015, re-established access to the population of Wau Shilluk, an area on the west bank of the Nile River, Upper Nile State. However, as of Friday, 16 October 2015, restrictions on access prevented humanitarian agencies from delivering lifesaving assistance. Sources: [Radio Tamazuj \(a\)](#) and [Radio Tamazuj \(b\)](#).

13 October 2015: The Norwegian Refugee Council and the International Rescue Committee have suspended their plans to renew their activities in the counties of Leer and Koch, Unity State, as renewed violence between the Government of South Sudan and opposing parties intensified. The decision comes after weeks of extensive negotiations and securing permission with warring parties at the beginning of October 2015. [Norwegian Refugee Council](#).

Sudan

14 October 2015: Britain's ambassador to the UN, Matthew Rycroft, accused the Sudanese Government of restricting essential aid shipments from reaching the UN-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Khartoum denied the accusation. Source: [Deutsche Welle](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

MSF was forced to suspend its operations in Kunduz, following the attack on its hospital (see above). The MSF hospital was the only functioning facility providing free life and limb saving trauma treatment services in the whole north-eastern region of Afghanistan.

5 October 2015: 10 INGOS, 4 LNGOs and 2 UN agencies evacuated staff from Kunduz following the air strikes on the MSF hospital. Several agencies, including the Norwegian Refugee Council, temporarily ceased its operations in the city of Kunduz to protect its staff. Humanitarian actors have not been able to provide lifesaving assistance to the people trapped in the city due to ongoing fighting. Sources: [9 News](#), [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) [Voice of America](#) and [IRIN](#).

10 October 2015: Daesh Takfiri members closed 10 health centres in the districts of Achin, Haskamina and Mina Kotin, Nangarhar Province, Eastern Afghanistan, during a nationwide anti-polio campaign to prevent some 46 thousand children from receiving polio vaccines. Source: [Press TV](#).

Bangladesh

21 October 2015: The Japanese aid agency JICA has temporarily withdrawn its 35-40 volunteers working

in rural areas of Bangladesh following the murder of one of its staffers (see above). Source: [Gulf Times](#).

Kyrgyzstan

6 October 2015: A group of 50 NGOs requested that the President veto a bill already approved by the lower house of the country's parliament that requires charity organisations to disclose any financing from abroad and declare themselves as foreign agents. [The Diplomat](#).

Pakistan

1 October 2015: International aid agencies in Pakistan were ordered to renew their registration with the Government within 60 days, after which permission may or may not be granted. If approval is given, they would be allowed to work in the country for three years, after which their case would be reassessed. Sources: [Channel News Asia](#).

30 October 2015: Due to a new policy that requires foreign humanitarian organisations to obtain a No Objection Certificate prior to expanding their work into different areas of the country (other than those they already operate in), some agencies are not able to reach victims of the earthquake. Four days after the earthquake, permission had not been granted in a number of cases. Source: [IRIN](#).

Europe

Ukraine

2 October 2015: A request for registration was denied to the Norwegian Refugee Council for the area of Luhansk Province, Eastern Ukraine. Operations have halted. [Norwegian Refugee Council](#).

19 October 2015: MSF accreditation in Donetsk has been withdrawn without explanation. [MSF](#).

20 October 2015: WFP restarted its humanitarian activities in Donetsk after a three-month suspension. The ICRC and Czech Republic's People in Need were allowed to stay. Sources: [WFP](#), [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#) and [UNHCR](#).

27 October 2015: The ban on activities by UN agencies in the Luhansk region was lifted. Source [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and UNHCR](#).

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

The recent escalation of the Syrian Civil War, as a result of Russia's aerial intervention, affects supply routes and has increased the difficulties of assisting people in need. Source: [Yahoo News](#).

18 October 2015: 31 UN and ICRC trucks loaded with emergency supplies for 29,500 people managed to reach four besieged towns in Syria (Kefraya and al-Foua, Idlib Governorate and Madaya and Al-Zabadani, Rif Dimashq Governorate). The delivery was possible under a local ceasefire as part of an agreement reached by Syria's warring parties under UN's auspices. Originally, the plan of this operation also included the immediate evacuation of those critically wounded. Sources: [Reuters \(a\)](#) and [Reuters \(b\)](#).

