

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

May
2016

Security Incidents

Africa

Central African Republic

18 May 2016: In the northwest town of Kouki, Ouham Region, armed assailants stopped a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) two-vehicle convoy transporting staff members and patients, and stole medication and their personal belongings. All personnel were forced out of the cars and onto the ground, and one driver, of Central African origin, was shot dead. MSF suspended its activities in the area. Sources: [MSF I](#), [MSF II](#), [News 24](#) and [Reuters](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

03 May 2016: Three Congolese employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were kidnapped by unidentified assailants whilst driving in the eastern city of Goma. The Rwandan rebel group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) is suspected of being behind this assault. The victims were released on 07 May 2016. Sources: [7 Sur 7](#), [News 24](#), [Reuters](#) and [Reuters Africa](#).

26 May 2016: Four local employees of the charity group Solidarité Internationale were stopped by armed men in the northeast town of Lubero, North Kivu, and forced into the bush. Two of them were released later, but two remain captive. Sources: [7 Sur 7](#) and [ABC News](#).

Mali

18 May 2016: Near the eastern village of Aguelhok, Kidal region, a convoy belonging to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) hit an improvised explosive device and was then attacked by a group of unknown gunmen, killing five Chadian peacekeepers, and seriously injuring three. The militant group Ansar Dine claimed responsibility for this ambush. Sources: [Mali Actu](#), [Reuters](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

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.

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

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19 May 2016: In the eastern town of Ménaka, Gao Region, three local Médecins du Monde employees and their driver were abducted by suspected armed robbers. Their two vehicles were seized and the victims released shortly after. Sources: [Barmou A. Salifou](#), [Mali Jet](#), [Mali Web](#), [Rida Lyammouri 1](#) and [Rida Lyammouri 2](#).

29 May 2016: Five MINUSMA peacekeepers were attacked and killed near the northern town of Severe, Mopti Region. No further information is available. Source: [Bloomberg](#).

31 May 2016: In the northeast city of Gao, Gao Region, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at a MINUSMA camp, leading to the death of a Chinese peacekeeper, and the injury of dozens. Source: [UN News Centre](#).

31 May 2016: Unknown assailants attacked the camp of a United Nations (UN) contractor in another area within Gao, and killed a French civilian contractor and two security guards. Source: [UN News Centre](#).

Sudan

25 May 2016: In the southern town of Kauda, Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan State, government warplanes bombed Saint Vincent Primary School wounding a Kenyan teacher and damaging classrooms and a library. The school is sponsored by American Catholic churches, where international staff from East Africa and Australia work. Source: [The Huffington Post](#).

Asia

Bangladesh

20 May 2016: Three unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants, armed with machetes, killed a volunteer doctor and injured his friend as they were on their way to work at a charity centre in the western district of Kushtia, Khulna Division. The militant group Islamic State has claimed responsibility for this attack citing religious motivations. Sources: [BBC](#), [Mail Online](#) and [The New York Times](#).

Pakistan

16 May 2016: In the town of Mastung unknown armed men attacked a team of health officials and a passerby was shot dead as an anti-polio vaccination campaign started across the southwest province of Balochistan. Source: [The Nation](#).

Europe

Greece

28 May 2016: In the Greek capital, Athens, the local charity group Hara is being accused of money laundering as part of an international network involved in human smuggling. Source: [Greek Reporter](#).

Middle-East

Saudi Arabia

17 May 2016: Unidentified gunmen fired shots outside King Khalid Hospital in the northwest city of Ha'il, Ha'il Province, and stormed the building for unknown reasons. No further information is available. Source: [Al Bawaba News](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

31 April 2016: In the divided northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, a maternity hospital in a government-held area was hit by rebel shelling, killing at least three women and wounding 17. Source: [The New York Times](#).

05 May 2016: In the northwest town of Sarmada, Idlib Province, near the Syria-Turkey border, a makeshift camp for the internally displaced, known as al-Kammouneh, was hit by aerial strikes believed to have been carried out by the Syrian Government, resulting in the death of 28 people and the destruction of around 50 tents and a school. Sources: [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#) and [The Guardian](#).

17 May 2016: Regime warplanes hit the only functional field hospital in the rebel-held Khan a-Sheh camp for Palestinian refugees, 25 kilometres southwest of Damascus. As a result, a dirt road leading to the nearby town of Zakia, which is normally used by civilians to access food and medicine, has been cut off. Source: [Syria Direct](#).

17 May 2016: In the rebel-held northern city of Azaz, Aleppo Governorate, two doctors from Azaz Ahli Hospital were arbitrarily arrested by unidentified gunmen and later released. In response to this incident, all hospitals in the area temporarily closed amid protests by health staff, demanding warring factions protect medical personnel better. Source: [Syria Direct](#).

23 May 2016: The emergency department of an unspecified public hospital in the northwest government-held city of Jableh, Latakia Governorate, was the scene of a suicide blast targeting civilian supporters of the regime and killing scores of people. The militant group Islamic State has claimed responsibility for this attack. Source: [The New York Times](#).

24 May 2016: The head of the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations claimed that medical facilities are the most dangerous places in the country, alleging that they are the main targets of regime aerial attacks. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

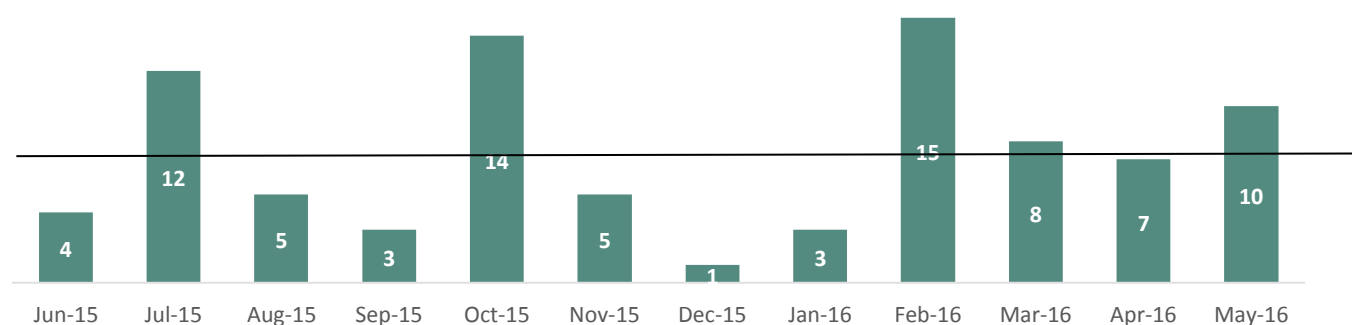
24 May 2016: A suicide bomber detonated himself inside a main hospital in the northwest city of Latakia, Latakia Governorate, killing 40 people. No further information is available. Source: [The Huffington Post](#).

31 May 2016: Suspected Russian jets struck Al Watani Hospital, also referred to as the National Hospital, in the northwest rebel-held city of Idlib, Idlib Governorate, claiming the lives of dozens of people and wounding hundreds. Some other hospitals appear to have sustained damages during the same attack, but no further information is available. Sources: [Daily Star](#) and [Michael Horowitz](#).

12 Months Trend Reporting - June 2015 – May 2016

Open source reported damage or loss of humanitarian and medical infrastructure, by month

Average number of reports on damage or loss of infrastructure: 7.25



Security-related Access Restraints

Africa

Democratic Republic of Congo

18 May 2016: Congolese authorities have threatened to close refugee camps in the northeast province of North Kivu, where FDLR fighters are thought to seek refuge. The camps are administered by the National Commission for Refugees, and supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Source: [IRIN](#).

Kenya

09 May 2016: The Kenyan Government has dissolved its Department of Refugee Affairs and commenced an exercise to close down the refugee camps of Dadaab and Kakuma, citing security concerns. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

Sudan

22 May 2016: For no specified reasons, the Sudanese Government announced that it will not renew the annual stay permit of the head of the Sudan office of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Sources: [The Guardian](#) and [The Telegraph](#).

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

04 May 2016: The Syrian Government continues to turn down UN demands to deliver aid to besieged communities across Syria, including the city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate. Sources: [NPS](#) and [Reuters](#).

12 May 2016: An ICRC-UN aid convoy carrying medical supplies, baby formula and school items was blocked by the Syrian Government from entering the southwest rebel-held Damascus suburb, Darayya, and turned back, despite the fact that prior clearance by all parties had been obtained. Sources: [BBC](#), [France 24](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [Reuters III](#), [Syria Direct](#), [The Huffington Post](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

13 May 2016: Humanitarian access to the northern Kurdish city of Afrin, Aleppo Governorate, remains impeded as the Bashar al-Assad Regime continues to deny charity organisations permissions to deliver aid. Additionally, border crossings to neighbouring Turkey have been closed by the Turkish Government. Source: [The Huffington Post](#).

09 May 2016: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has partially suspended funding to some major charity organisations, including International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee and GOAL, after an inquiry by the Government of the United States found that a network of humanitarian officials and commercial vendors in war-ravaged Syria is engaged in bribery and bid rigging. GOAL has fired two of its employees, both of Turkish nationality, on the basis of information derived from the same investigation. Sources: [IRIN](#) and [Irish Times](#).

