

Risk Statistics, 2008
Aid workers only (NGOs)

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Below are compilations of the published (and a few unpublished, known) kidnappings and deaths within the global NGO community for the year 2008, and beginning of 2009. Information was gathered from multiple sources online, and dates may or may not be exact. Please use this as a guide only. (Updated 21 Jan 2009)

KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS						
Date Taken (estimated)	Date Released (estimated)	Duration (estimated)	Location	Organization	Details	Source
26 Dec 2007	2 Jan 2008	7 days	Somalia (Puntland)	French-based aid organization	Two female aid workers from Spain & Argentina were kidnapped.	Australian Broadcasting Corporation (Reuters)
8 Jan 2008	--	--	Pakistan	International NGO	A doctor was kidnapped from Dalla camp, Hangu but later released unharmed.	<i>Unpublished</i>
27 Jan 2008	--	Presumed dead	Afghanistan (Kandahar)	Philippines-based development foundation	An American woman and her Afghan driver were kidnapped by gunmen in this southern town Saturday morning on her way to work. She was fluent in Pashto and had been in Pakistan since 2002.	NY Times
2 Feb 2008	16 Feb 2008	14 days	Pakistan	International aid group headquartered in Geneva	Two Pakistani employees were kidnapped and freed without a ransom being paid. The pair was kidnapped as they traveled in the organization's marked vehicle during a mission to Torkham.	Clayton Consultants
12 Feb 2008	12 Feb 2008	12 hours	Somalia (Northern)	German-based relief organization	A German aid worker was kidnapped from a vehicle in which he was traveling. Two other aid workers (a German female and a Somali man) were not taken.	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
20 Mar 2008	--	--	Sudan (Darfur)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	Four members of a state water corporation team were hijacked and kidnapped.	<i>Unpublished</i>



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2 Apr 2008	--	Still being held	Somalia (Southern region)	Indian-based subcontractor working with a relief organization headquartered in USA	Two male foreign aid workers (a Kenyan and a Briton) were abducted by gunmen while they were working on a survey of local rivers. The Briton was shot during the kidnapping. The two men were taken to Jilib town, 280 km (175 miles) south of Mogadishu.	Guardian (UK)
11 Apr 2008	--	--	Afghanistan (Parawan)	German-based NGO	An Afghan doctor and a driver from a German-based NGO were kidnapped in northern Afghanistan. They were traveling between Kabul and Kunduz.	<i>Unpublished</i>
21 Apr 2008	22 Apr 2008	1 day (rescued unharmed by Pakistani paramilitary forces)	Pakistan	Development organization headquartered in NYC	Two Pakistani workers for a NY-based NGO and a guard were taken on their way to the Afghan border.	Reuters
23 Apr 2008	5 May 2008	12 days	Pakistan	US-based humanitarian organization	Senior national staff members of a US-based NGO were abducted by Taliban. They were released 12 days later unharmed.	<i>Unpublished</i>
15 May 2008	--	Still being held	Sri Lanka (Columbo)	International aid organization	A driver with an international NGO has been missing since 15 th of May, 2008 and assumed kidnapped. He was last seen dropping off staff at the country office in Columbo.	<i>Unpublished</i>
21 May 2008	5 Aug 2008	85 days	Somalia	Italian-based relief organization	Two Italian aid workers (a male and female) and a Somali colleague were taken after gunmen stormed their office. They were freed 5 Aug 2008.	Christian Today



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Date Taken (estimated)	Date Released (estimated)	Duration (estimated)	Location	Organization	Details	Source
21 May 2008	29 May 2008	8 days	Haiti (Port au Prince)	Canadian-based relief organization	A 32-year old Canadian intern with a Canadian-based NGO was taken near her house and released about a week later.	Canada.com
Jun 2008 (est.)	--	--	Somalia (Mogadishu)	Italian-based NGO / international NGO	Gunmen kidnapped 5 local employees of an Italian-based NGO and an international NGO.	<i>Unpublished</i>
16 Jun 2008	--	--	Somalia (Galgadud)	International NGO	An employee of an international NGO was kidnapped near El-Dheer town.	<i>Unpublished</i>
21 Jun 2008	27 Aug 2008	67 days	Somalia (Mogadishu)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	An NGO staff member was forcibly taken from his home around 8pm. He was released after more than 2 months.	<i>Unpublished</i>
28 Jun 2008	28 Jun 2008	Hours	Somalia (southern)	Two US-based NGOs	Two NGO workers from Sweden and Denmark were released hours after kidnapping. One Somali man working as a translator for another US-based NGO was also released. Elders helped negotiate their release.	Reuters
30 Jun 2008	--	Shot dead	Somalia (Mogadishu)	Local Somali charity	Gunmen kidnapped the 38-year-old head of a local Somali charity around 0900. He was later shot dead in the Somali capital.	AFP
30 Jun 2008	--	--	Somalia (Mogadishu)	International NGO	Gunmen seized a coordinator for an international NGO on his way to Mogadishu.	<i>Unpublished</i>
30 Jun 2008	--	Still being held	Somalia	Italian-based charity	Gunmen kidnapped four Somali employees of an Italian charity on June 30 after stopping their cars west of the capital. A fifth aid worker for another NGO was also taken. They are still being held.	Africa News



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18 Jul 2008	2 Aug 2008	15 days	Afghanistan (Daykundi)	French-based relief organization	Two French humanitarian workers were kidnapped at gunpoint from their house in Nili, in the central Afghan province of Day Kundi around 1am. The kidnappers had tied up guards posted outside the house.	MSNBC.com
13 Aug 2008	--	Shot dead while trying to escape	Somalia (Dinsor)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	A 33-year-old Somali national was abducted during an off-duty weekend visit to his home in Dinsor. He and the driver of the vehicle in which he was traveling were killed as they tried to escape. A third member of the group got away.	CNN
26 Aug 2008	N/A	Found dead	Afghanistan (Jalalabad)	Japanese-based humanitarian organization	A 31-year-old Japanese aid worker, who was kidnapped in August along with his Afghan driver, was found dead the following day.	CBCNews.ca
15 Sep 2008	15 Sep 2008	Several hours, but 11 aid workers are still being held	Somalia	Development organization headquartered in NYC	Two Somali workers for a NY-based organization were kidnapped before reaching the NGO's building around midnight. They were released hours later, but 11 aid workers remain in captivity.	WTOP News
15 Sep 2008	17 Sep 2008	3 released after two days; 2 hostages remain	Philippines (Tipo-tipo)	Church-funded organization	Five aid workers were taken, three released in the town of Al-Barka.	Clayton Consultants
16 Sep 2008	--	--	Afghanistan (Logar)	International NGO	Gunmen seized a Bangladeshi aid worker from his office in the Logar province, south of Kabul.	Unpublished



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Date Taken (estimated)	Date Released (estimated)	Duration (estimated)	Location	Organization	Details	Source
22 Sep 2008	6 Jan 2009	106 days	Somalia (taken in Ethiopia)	French aid group	A 32-year-old Japanese female aid worker and a 27-year-old Dutch male relief worker were taken from Ethiopia and held in Somalia.	Yahoo! News
17 Oct 2008	19 Oct 2008	2 days	Pakistan	US-based humanitarian organization	Senior national staff members were abducted at a government health compound in Bannu Agency. They were later released unharmed.	<i>Unpublished</i>
3 Nov 2008	3 Dec 2008	30 days	Afghanistan	Paris-based aid organization	A 32-year-old male French aid worker was taken at gunpoint and released a month later. Three gunmen also attempted to abduct an aid worker from another French NGO but were unsuccessful. An Afghan who was trying to prevent the kidnapping was killed.	The Huffington Post
5 Nov 2008 (published)	--	Still being held	Somalia (Dhusamareb)	French-based aid organization	Four aid workers (two French, a Bulgarian and a Belgian) and two Kenyan pilots were taken in the central Somali town of Dhusamareb. The group was traveling in a convoy to the airport in order to return to Nairobi, Kenya, when they were attacked.	The Independent
10 Nov 2008	--	--	Kidnapped in Kenya (Elwaq village), taken into Somalia	Unknown	Two female aid workers were kidnapped from Kenya and taken into Somalia.	allAfrica.com
24 Nov 2008	--	--	Pakistan	US-based development program	Unidentified gunmen kidnapped an official of a US-based development program along with his driver and Land Cruiser jeep from Ushera in Upper Dir district. The gunmen were unable to kidnap 4 other officials from the agency.	NowPublic.com



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29 Nov 2008	30 Nov 2008 (only brother was released)	NGO guard's fate unknown	Afghanistan (Helmand)	International NGO	Four gunmen riding on two motorbikes kidnapped an international NGO guard and his brother while they were working on their farm land. The next day, after questioning, the brother was released, but the fate of the INGO staff member is unknown.	Unpublished
4 Dec 2008	4 Dec 2008	--	Sudan (South Darfur)	International aid organization	Gunmen kidnapped and beat up 6 Sudanese aid workers on the road to Kalma camp in south Darfur. Three of the workers were taken to the hospital after the attack.	Unpublished
15 Dec 2008	19 Dec 2008	4 days	Yemen (Dhamar)	German-based aid agency	An aid worker and her visiting parents were kidnapped Sunday in remote mountains in Dhamar province, about 65 miles south of Sanaa. They were released 4 days later.	Unpublished
2008 (year)	--	--	Afghanistan	US-based relief organization	A US-based NGO had 3 actual kidnappings involving local nationals in 2008. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Two incidents involved single person kidnaps ■ One incident involved three aid workers All were released after negotiations.	Unpublished
15 Jan 2009	Recently kidnapped	Still being held	Philippines (Jolo island)	Geneva-based aid organization	Islamic militants kidnapped a three-person team from a Geneva-based aid NGO in the strife-torn southern Philippines. A Swiss National, Italian citizen, and a Filipina citizen were on a relief and medical mission when they were kidnapped on Jolo island. They were traveling in a vehicle marked with the NGO's logo.	The Times of Earth



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DEATH INCIDENTS.				
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28 Jan 2008	Somalia (Southern)	French-based aid group	Two foreign aid workers (a Kenyan doctor and a French doctor) for a French-based NGO were killed in an explosion when a bomb was placed next to their car in the southern Somali town of Kismayu. Their driver and a Somali journalist were also killed in the attack.	AllAfrica.com
8 Feb 2008	Sudan (Seleia/ West Darfur)	Geneva-based aid organization	An employee of a Geneva-based NGO was killed during fighting in and around Seleia, West Darfur. He was a 45-year-old Sudanese national and father of six children.	<i>Unpublished</i>
5 July 2008	Somalia (Mogadishu)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	Unidentified gunmen shot the local head of a NY-based development program in Somalia, as he was leaving a mosque in Mogadishu. He died on his way to the hospital; and his brother was also seriously wounded in the attack. He had been working for the organization for 14 years.	International Herald Tribune
11 July 2008	Somalia (Elasha)	Local aid group affiliated with a German-based relief organization	The deputy director of a local aid group affiliated with a German organization was shot and killed.	BBC News
14 July 2008	Somalia	Development organization headquartered in NYC	A driver was shot and killed at a check point.	BBC News
13 Aug 2008	Afghanistan	Humanitarian organization based in NYC	Taliban gunmen shot dead three female international aid workers and their local driver near the Afghan capital Kabul. The three women (a Canadian, a British-Canadian and a Trinidadian-American) and their two Afghan colleagues were travelling from Gardez in the south-east to Kabul in two vehicles clearly marked with the NGO's logo when they were ambushed and attacked by 5 gunmen.	BBC News
9 Nov 2008	Somalia (Kismayu)	Oregon-based NGO	Somali gunmen shot dead a local worker while he was walking to his house in Jamame town, north of rebel-held Kismayu port. The worker was the local head of a U.S.-based charity.	Reuters
17 Oct 2008	Somalia	Development organization	A senior program assistant for a US-based organization was killed	ReliefWeb



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	(Merka)	headquartered in NYC	after evening prayers on 17 October in Marka, Lower Shabelle region.	
19 Oct 2008	Somalia (Southern)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	A water engineer working with a US-based organization was shot dead in Huddur as he walked with friends after attending the local mosque.	The New York Times
20 Oct 2008	Afghanistan	UK-based humanitarian organization	A 34-year-old female aid worker was shot and killed by two gunmen on motorcycles as she walked to work.	Telegraph.co.uk
12 Nov 2008	Pakistan (Peshawar)	Silver Spring-based NGO	A 52-year-old aid worker and his driver were shot and killed in their vehicle after leaving his home in University Town.	The Washington Post
23 Dec 2008	Sri Lanka (Jaffna)	Geneva-based aid organization	A 42-year-old staff member of a Geneva-based aid organization was shot dead in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka. He was the father of two children and had been working with the NGO since 1999.	LankaNewspapers.com
6 Jan 2009	Somalia (Nairobi)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	Gunmen shot and killed a Somali aid worker for a humanitarian organization based in NYC. The 44-year-old man was a school feeding monitor.	Xinhua News Agency
8 Jan 2009	Somalia (Mogadishu)	Development organization headquartered in NYC	Several gunmen ordered a Somali aid worker for a US-based humanitarian organization from his car and fatally shot him in the head and chest. He was working on food distribution at the time.	The Miami Herald



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ADDITIONAL NOTES		
Date Published	Note	Source
20 Oct 2008	In a report released earlier this month on staff security, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for collective responsibility and closer collaboration between the UN and its Member States to better protect UN staff and other humanitarian workers. The report found there were 490 attacks against UN offices, convoys and premises between July 2007 and June this year, leading to 26 deaths of UN staff. At least 63 workers with NGOs were murdered during the same period.	UN News Centre
6 Nov 2008	An escalation of attacks on aid workers and human rights defenders in southern and central Somalia is putting at least 3 million Somalis at even greater risk of malnutrition and disease. Many organizations have suspended programmes and withdrawn staff. At least 40 humanitarian and human rights workers have been killed so far this year, as highlighted in <i>Fatal Insecurity: Attacks on Aid Workers and HRDs in Somalia</i> , a new report by Amnesty International.	Amnesty International
6 Jan 2009	At least 13 aid workers were killed in Somalia in 2008.	International Herald Tribune
8 Jan 2009	<i>FACTBOX: Violence against aid workers in Somalia</i> – a compilation of recent attacks against humanitarian workers.	Reuters

HIGH RISK INSURANCE

In certain developing regions of the world, there has been a trend of increasing risks against non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their humanitarian workers. NGOs must take the necessary precautions to help ensure the highest level of safety possible for their staff members, whether expatriate or local nationals, and for any volunteers as well. Most have devised strategic crisis management plans to help anticipate for – and possibly cope with – any security breaches. Many are also incorporating high risk insurance into their crisis management plans.

High risk insurance includes:

- Kidnap, Ransom & Extortion (KRE)
- Personal Accident (AD&D)
- Political Risk
- WorldAuto (Commercial Auto)



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