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Protection in Humanitarian Emergencies



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Every year, the World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held on 19 August to honour humanitarian aid workers who put their lives at risk on the front lines of war and disasters across the world. It also gathers people from all walks of life to advocate for a more humane world. The day was selected by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to coincide with the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the UN Head Office in Baghdad, Iraq.

Awareness of danger in conflict zones

On this year's WHD, the UN and its partners are advocating for the protection of civilians, humanitarian workers, and all of who have been affected by conflict. In recent times, there has been more effort to document the atrocities committed against civilians and humanitarian workers, and as a result the issue has gained much more attention. WHD will be an important opportunity to raise awareness of this issue through UN Member States, civil society and global leaders, so that fast and effective action can be taken to overcome these challenges. On the social media front, the online hashtag, #NotATarget has also been promoted as an act of solidarity to stand up for the protection of civilians, humanitarian

aid workers and civilian infrastructure in conflict situations, to draw attention to the atrocities committed against these groups of people in war zones and to demand the right of humanitarian workers to provide assistance to people in need, especially in conflict areas. The #NotATarget campaign has drawn the attention of world leaders and is pushing them to investigate and collate data to understand the extent of the situation. It has also helped both victims and witnesses to come forward and share their experiences in war zones.

Humanitarian workers at risk

Protecting humanitarian workers when they are delivering assistance and protection to civilians has become an increasingly serious challenge in complex humanitarian situations everywhere. Though some hazards are inherent to humanitarian action, there has been an increase in overall risks in terms of intentional attacks against those working in the humanitarian field. These attacks endanger their lives, disregard international humanitarian law and risk effective provision of aid to civilians in need. According to Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), there are an estimated

450,000 humanitarian workers working in armed conflict zones and natural disaster situations. Data from Insecurity Insight has indicated that just between June 2015 and August 2016, 816 humanitarian workers were killed, kidnapped, injured or assaulted. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that during the 2-year period from 2014 to 2015, an estimated 600 health facilities came under attack, taking the lives of more than 950 patients and health providers. The increasing number of crises continue to affect the security of humanitarians.

Exploring the underlying causes of hostility towards aid workers

As the issue on the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers gains traction, the knowledge and practice of providing protection to them remains limited. More research can be done to understand the disparities between humanitarian workers and risks it poses to them in relation to their nationality, gender and the organization that their affiliated with. Also, there is a

need to explore the underlying causes of hostility towards aid workers in different situations across the world and how international humanitarian law could be applied and enforced to protect these groups of people. It is also important to determine how organisations can balance between speaking out against attacks but at the same time protect people or programmes that are affected. At the ground level, it is important to understand what the risks humanitarian workers face when they speak up about attacks against them and what the most appropriate course of action is, in order to reassert the protection of humanitarian action, whether independently or jointly. One step at a time, this will help build a safer world for humanitarian action.



Courtesy of Flickr account of Israel Defense Forces and used under a creative commons license.

Suggested Readings:

- Humanitarian Outcomes, 2017, Behind the Attacks: A Look at the Perpetrators of Violence Against Aid Workers.
- Médecins Sans Frontières , 2017, #NotATarget.
- United Nations, 2017, 2017 World Humanitarian Day Campaign.
- United Nations, 2017, Civilians are #NotATarget.
- United Nations Security Council, 2017, Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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Climate change is harming the health of Australians

Nick Watts,
Al Jazeera
2 July 2017

G-20 meet ends with compromise on trade, climate change

Royston Sim,
The Straits Times
9 July 2017

Paris isn't burning: Why the Climate Agreement will survive Trump

Brian Deese,
Foreign Affairs
9 July 2017

Countries with coral reefs must do more on climate change – Unesco

Michael Slezak,
The Guardian
11 July 2017

Climate change may ground a third of aircrafts in coming decades-study

Sebastien Melo,
Reuters
13 July 2017

ADB warns climate change 'disastrous' for Asia

Channel News Asia,
AFP
14 July 2017

Asia faces disaster from soaring temperatures if climate change unchecked: Scientists

Thin Lei Win,
Thomson Reuters
Foundation
14 July 2017



Courtesy of Flickr account of European Commission DG ECHO and used under a creative commons license.

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2020 the climate turning point

CPI, CI, IRENA, NCE,
SLoCaT, Reid Detchon at
the UN Foundation,
SYSTEMIQ, WMB, and WRI
2017

A region at risk: The human dimensions of climate change in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank
2017

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Tenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses

20–21 April 2018
Berkeley, USA

Global Climate Action Summit 2018

September 2018
San Francisco, USA

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Powering ahead to solve Southeast Asia's energy challenges

Jianyue Xue,
Eco-Business
18 July 2017

PH moving toward energy resiliency – Cusi

Jordeene Sheex Lagare,
The Manila Times
19 July 2017

Vietnam plans to spend over \$6bn for crude oil, fuel storage

Bangkok Post
28 July 2017

China powers up on nuclear projects

Zheng Xin,
China Daily
1 August 2017

Long-Term potential of nuclear power remains high: IAEA report

Irena Chatzis
IAEA
7 August 2017

China National Nuclear Power launches \$150m JV to build floating nuclear plant

Shiwen Yap,
Deal Street Asia
13 August 2017



Courtesy of Wikimedia account of Gretchen Mahan and used under a creative commons license.

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International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century

30 October-1 November
2017
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Singapore International Energy Week 2017

23–27 October 2017
Singapore

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Japan's nuclear security after the Fukushima nuclear accident

Nobumasa Akiyama
Nautilus Asia Peace and Security Network
2017

BP statistical review of world energy June 2017

BP
2017

FOOD SECURITY



Courtesy of Flickr account of olly301 and used under a creative commons license.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO)
2017

FAO strategy on climate change

UN FAO
2017

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Food security and the 'terrorist within us' – analysis

Christopher H. Lim and Vincent Mack Zhi Wei,
Eurasia Review
22 July 2017

Future of agriculture and implications for ASEAN – analysis

Ong Keng Yong and Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros,
Eurasia Review
5 August 2017

What to know about the massive cholera outbreak in Yemen

Alexandra Sifferlin,
Time
26 July 2017

Displaced people of Marawi to receive food assistance from Japan

World Food Programme
8 August 2017

Jobs in agri-food industry: Silver lining for youth – analysis

Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros,
Eurasia Review
29 July 2017

The real thrust of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

Uzair Younus,
The Straits Times
10 August 2017

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High-level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Response to Climate Change (APEC)

21-25 August 2017
Can Tho City, Viet Nam

Global Food Security Annual Symposium 2017

6 September 2017
Cambridge, UK

HEALTH SECURITY



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Piyasakol to discuss key issues surrounding draft National Health Security Bill with Wissanu

The Nation
18 July 2017

MOHW, WHO to hold health security conferences

Marian Chu, Korean Biomedical Review
25 July 2017

The Future of the GHSA Matters for US Clinicians—Find Out Why

Saskia v. Popescu, Contagion Live
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Strengthening Global Health Security, Engaging Variety Of Stakeholders Necessary To Prepare For Future Disease Outbreaks

Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report
4 August 2017

Has healthcare misdiagnosed the cybersecurity problem?

Kevin Magee, Help Net Security
7 August 2017

Digital health record custodian establishes cyber security centre

Rohan Pearce, Computerworld
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Trump's 'Emergency' Declaration For Opioids Could Be A Double-Edged Sword

Livia Gershon, Huffington Post
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Korea leads efforts tackling global health security threats

Kim Gang-lip, The Korea Times
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Synergies and tensions between universal health coverage and global health security: why we need a second 'Maximizing Positive Synergies' initiative.

Gorik Ooms, et al. BMJ Global Health Vol 2, No. 1
2017

The Perils of Trumping Science in Global Health—The Mexico City Policy and Beyond.

Lo, Nathan C., and Michele Barry, New England Journal of Medicine Vol 376, No. 15
2017

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Healthcare & Security Forum: A HIMSS Event
11-13 September 2017
Boston, USA

The Role of the Private Sector in Global Health Security

28 Sep 2017
London, UK

PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Venezuela: "Zero hour"

International Crisis Group
20 July 2017

Does diplomacy stand a chance in North Korea?

The Washington Post
15 August 2017

Containing North Korea our best bet, in a world of tough options

Channel News Asia
12 August 2017



Courtesy of Flickr account of US Army Africa and used under a creative commons license.

Tillerson: No conflict between US aid, rights concerns*The Philippine Star*
9 August 2017**Deportation looms large over Rohingyas in India***Deutsche Welle*
15 August 2017**Russia's biggest war game in Europe since the cold war alarms NATO***TIME*
10 August 2017**Japan PM Abe's "Holy Grail" of revising pacifist constitution increasingly elusive***Channel News Asia*
31 July 2017**Italy seizes NGO rescue boat for allegedly aiding illegal migration***Reuters*
2 August 2017**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS****Livelihoods, Conflict and Recovery***Dan Maxwell, Dyan Mazurana, Michael Wagner and Rachel Slater*
2017**War in cities***International Review of the Red Cross*
2017**EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS****Istanbul Human Security Conference**18-20 October 2018
Istanbul, Turkey**10th IEEE International Conference on Cyber Conflict**29 May - 1 June 2018
Tallinn, Estonia**TRANSNATIONAL CRIME***Courtesy of Flickr account of Naval Surface Warriors and used under a creative commons license.***Philippine mayor linked to drugs killed in raid***Gulf Times*
30 Jul 2017**Germany needs tougher laws against cyber crime, top policeman tells paper***Reuters*
5 August 2017**Mitigating the impact of transnational organised crime in Africa***defenceWeb*
03 August 2017 03 August 2017**NEWS & COMMENTARIES****EU executive plans crackdown on plunder smugglers, militants***Channel NewsAsia*
13 Jul 2017**Thai general among officials jailed for human trafficking***Yahoo News*
19 Jul 2017**China's Trafficked Brides***The Diplomat*
19 July 2017**Pakistan joins UNODC global initiative against human trafficking and migrant smuggling***United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*
21 July 2017**Trump immigration plans risk more incidents like Texas deaths, experts say***The Guardian*
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31 July 2017**Criminal organizing applying the theory of partial organization to four cases of organized crime***Trends in Organized Crime Springer US*
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35th International Symposium on Economic Crime

3-10 September 2017,
Jesus College, University
of Cambridge, UK

Europol Intellectual Property Crime Conference

19 - 20 September 2017
Antwerp, Belgium

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF



Courtesy of Flickr account The U.S. Army and used under a creative commons license.

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Reluctant Refuge: Rohingya safe but not secure in Bangladesh

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Refugees International*
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Regional Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific
UNOCHA
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Fiji, US Conduct Humanitarian Exercise

*Ashna Kumar,
Fiji Sun Online*
15 July 2017

ASEAN Deploys Terror Aid to Philippines Amid Marawi Crisis

*Prashanth Parameswaran,
The Diplomat*
25 July 2017

Improvisation key to humanitarian aid shipments

*Joseph Bonney,
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Malaysia to Deploy More Terror Aid to Philippines

*Prashanth Parameswaran,
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UB engineer sees drones as more than eyes in the sky for disaster response

*Michael Andrei,
University at Buffalo Research News*
27 July 2017

India, Russia likely to ink deal for 48 advanced Mi-17 V5 choppers by year-end

Hindustan Times
30 July 2017

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RSIS World Humanitarian Day: Voices From The Field

17 August 2017
Singapore

8th Conference of the International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM 2017)

23-25 August 2017
Reykjavik, Iceland

WATER SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

S'pore needs to 'continually shore up its water system'

Louisa Tang,
Today
19 July 2017

Singapore forges new international alliances on water security

Ping Manongdo,
Eco-Business
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From evidence to policy in India's ground-water crisis

Asit K. Biswas and Kris Hartley,
The Diplomat
July 22, 2017

Map: Asia's infrastructure boom is coming to the cities most threatened by climate change

Leslie Josephs and David Yanofsky,
Quartz
July 26, 2017

The domestic and global shocks of the growing water crisis in China

Ben Abbs,
Global Risk Insights
August 10, 2017

Case study suggests new approach to urban water supply

Peter Dizikes,
MIT News
August 14, 2017



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Water supply infrastructure planning: Decision-making framework to classify multiple uncertainties and evaluate flexible design

Sarah M. Fletcher et al.
Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management
Volume 143 Issue 10
2017

Rethinking water governance: Moving beyond water-centric perspectives in connected and changing world

Rob C. de Loe and James J. Patterson,
Natural Resources Journal 57(1), 75-100
2017

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International Conference on Water Security and Climate Change (WSCC) 2017
18-21 September 2017
Cologne, Germany

Call for Papers: 1st International Conference on Water Security
15 December 2017
Toronto, Canada