



# NEWS CLIPS

**September 22, 2000** - Thousands of United Nations personnel gathered in cities, towns, and villages around the world to demand better protection for aid workers. Their protests followed the recent murders of four workers with the UNHRC, the U.N. High Committee on Refugees, three in West Timor and one in Guinea, and the abduction of a fifth. The demonstrators maintain that unarmed humanitarian workers are often asked to go to places where governments are unwilling even to send peacekeeping troops, and too many are killed. In fact about 200 aid workers have been killed in the last 10 years, 35 in the last year alone.

Around the globe UNHCR and other aid workers took part in memorial services, rallies, and marches to remember their murdered colleagues. In New York some 1200 protesters marched at the U.N. headquarters, carrying posters saying "Enough" with photos of the victims. The flag at the U.N. Building was lowered to half-mast and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan led the marchers in a minute of silence to remember the victims whom he called "heroes who worked to save lives."

**October 16, 2004** - The U.N.'s Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Manuel Aranda Da Silva, announced on Saturday that a landmine had killed two aid workers in Sudan's western Darfur region. The Save the Children workers, Rafe Bullick, 34, a program manager from Scotland and Nourredine Issa Tayeb, 41, a water engineer from Sudan, were killed when they drove over an anti-tank mine.

Da Silva said the UN carried out regular security checks in the Darfur region and had only recently deemed the road where the men were killed to be safe. He went on to explain that landmines hampered humanitarian work and were "a crime against international humanitarian law." Da Silva said aid workers in Darfur also faced an increased threat of armed robbery.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in Darfur and another 1.4 million have been driven from their homes since February 2003. Originally a clash between African farmers and Arab nomads, the conflict has grown into a civil war in which pro-government Arab militia have raped, killed, and burned the villages of their enemies. The government denies such crimes have occurred.

**October 24, 2008** - The bodies of three Spanish aid workers killed in Ruhengeri, Rwanda, last weekend are to be flown back to Spain to their families. The three were Manuel Madraza Osuna, 42, Maria Flores Sirera Fortuny, 33, and Luis Valentuena Gallego, 30.

The attack, which was the worst in more than two years, is believed to have been carried out by Hutu soldiers at the offices of "Doctors of the World" just outside the town of Ruhengeri. An American aid worker, who had only been there five days, was also shot in the leg during the attack and had to have it amputated. Some aid agencies are now threatening to leave the area.

**August 13, 2008** - Gunmen armed with assault rifles ambushed a United States aid organization's vehicle south of Kabul on Wednesday, killing an American aid worker along with a Canadian and a British-Canadian colleague, officials said. The three women worked for the New York-based International Rescue Committee (IRC) and were attacked in Logar province while travelling to Kabul, said the deputy counter-terrorism director. The women's Afghan driver was also killed, all suffering multiple gunshot wounds.

The International Rescue Committee provides emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, and post-conflict development in countries around the world. The women were traveling from the eastern city of Gardez to Kabul when they were attacked by five men with assault rifles. According to police, the gunmen stepped out of a small village area and opened fire. The women's vehicle, a white SUV labeled with IRC stickers, was riddled with hundreds of bullets.

Two Afghan IRC staff members were shot and killed in the same town in July of 2007. Attacks against aid workers in Afghanistan have spiked this year. This most recent attack brings the number of aid workers killed in 2008 to at least 23 - compared with 15 killed in all of 2007.

**July 26, 2010** - The French government announced today that a 78-year-old French aid worker, who was kidnapped by al-Qaeda North Africa in April, has been killed. The murder was apparently in response to a failed rescue attempt that left six al-Qaeda members dead.

Michel Germaneau was abducted on April 22 in Niger, where he was serving as a volunteer, building a school for children in the dry Sahel region of North Africa. The French president defended the failed rescue mission, saying he was, "convinced (Mr. Germaneau) was condemned to a certain death." Al Qaeda North Africa is currently holding two other aid workers from Spain. There is no word on their condition.

**August 20, 2010** - Ten bodies of American aid workers were found in a remote area of Northern Pakistan yesterday. The medical team had just finished a two-week mission in the area when they were attacked by gunmen. The team worked for a Christian charity that insists workers do not try to convert Muslims. Even so, the Taliban, which claimed responsibility, accused the aid workers of doing so in an effort to justify the murders.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, "We are heartbroken by the loss of these heroic, generous people. And we condemn in the strongest possible terms these vicious murders. We also condemn the Taliban's transparent attempt to justify the unjustifiable by making false accusations about these aid workers' activities in Afghanistan."

**October 9, 2010** - A British aid worker kidnapped in Afghanistan last month was killed last night in a failed rescue attempt. The U.K.'s foreign secretary said their government had received a tip about where Linda Norgrove was being held. Given the grave danger she faced at the hands of her captors, it was decided her best chance for survival was a rescue. Norgrove had been kidnapped on September 26, along with three Afghan aid workers, who were soon released.

The secretary announced last night, "It is with deep sadness that I must confirm that Linda Norgrove ... was killed at the hands of her captors in the course of a rescue attempt last night" No further details were provided.

# WHO SHOULD HELP?



**DIRECTIONS:** With so many people in such great need, what can and should the world do to help? Choose one of the thesis sentences below or write your own to begin a persuasive paragraph. Then complete the paragraph to support your ideas. Use information from the unit and your own thoughts to convince your readers of your viewpoint.

- Needy people in dangerous situations should not expect aid workers to risk their lives to help.
- Countries militaries should take responsibility for humanitarian aid, since they are equipped to handle the dangers.
- Despite the dangers involved, people must continue to risk their lives to help those in need.
- Those called to help others should be protected by U.N. forces when they go into dangerous situations.

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