



# AID WORKER SECURITY DATABASE

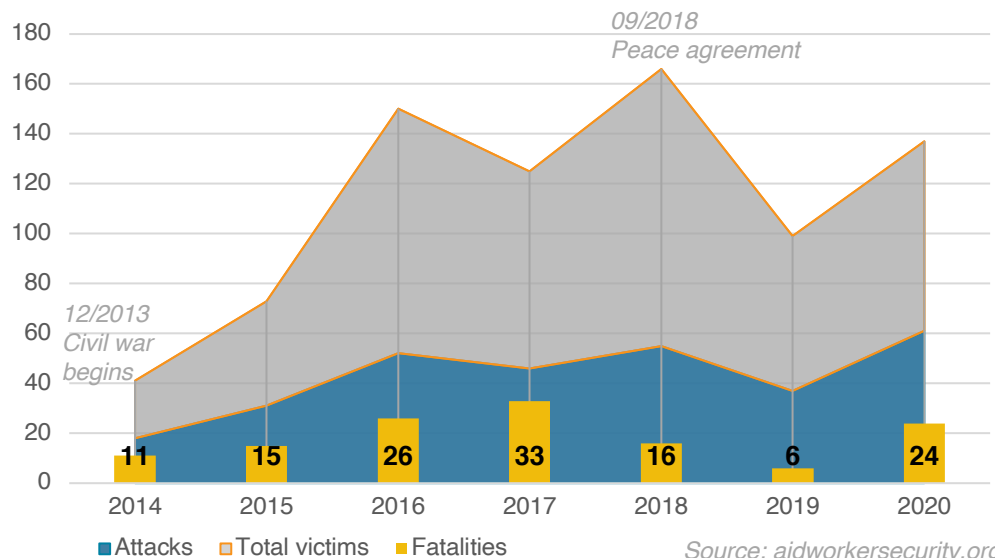
## JUNE 10, 2021 **SIGNAL ALERT**

### Fatal attacks on aid workers on the rise in South Sudan

After a two-year decline in fatal attacks against aid workers in South Sudan, killings increased sharply in 2020 and continue at a level not seen since 2016-2017, at a highpoint of fighting in the civil war.

24 aid workers were killed in attacks in 2020 as compared to 6 the previous year. Now, at the midpoint of 2021, the death toll stands at 12—on track to continue the upward trend.

Attacks on aid workers in South Sudan, 2014-2020



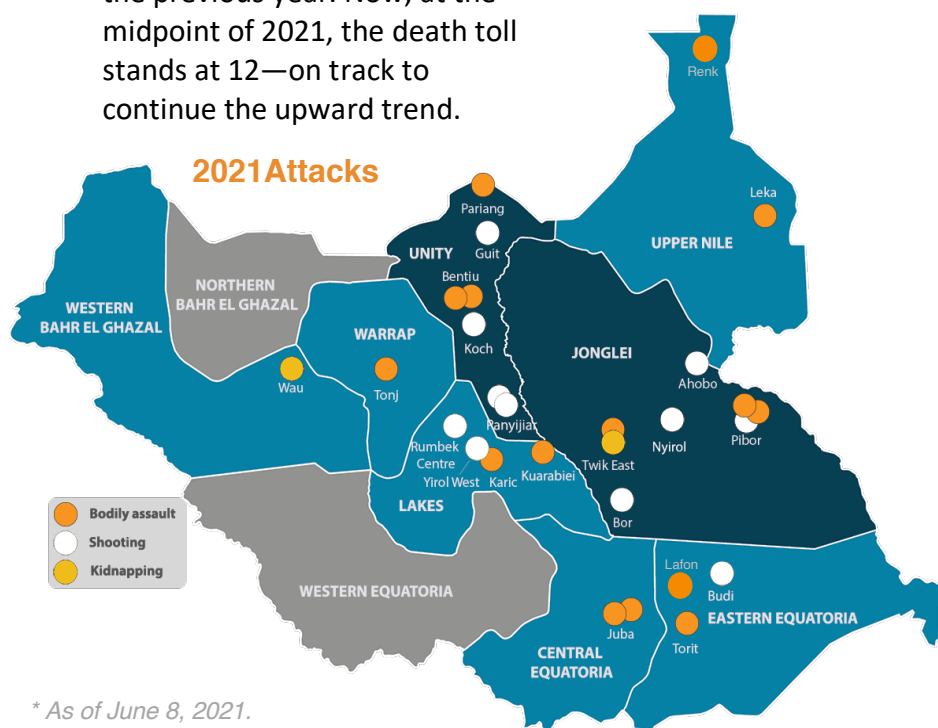
Despite the September 2018 peace agreement, attacks rose anew as UN peacekeeping forces handed over security and civilian protection responsibilities to the government, land-use disputes erupted at the protection sites, and other intergroup tensions flared.

The increased lethality of the recent violence reflects more attacks involving firearms, many committed by militarised cattle raiders and youth gangs, as well as sub-national armed groups vying for local control.

Most attacks have occurred in Jonglei and Unity states, but have also been rising in areas outside of the original conflict hot spots, reflecting an expansion of lawlessness and growing desperation in parts of the population traumatised by years of civil war.

Some large aid groups have recently halted or re-located programming in response to the violence.

### 2021 Attacks



\* As of June 8, 2021.  
All incidents are pending verification.

### OTHER RESOURCES

[South Sudan NGO Forum](#)

[Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project](#)

[ACAPS](#)

**Signal Alert** is an occasional publication of the Aid Worker Security Database to inform the humanitarian sector of a statistically significant trend, change, or outlier detected in the security environment for aid operations.

[www.aidworkersecurity.org](http://www.aidworkersecurity.org)

[www.humanitarianoutcomes.org](http://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org)