

New research reveals dangers to humanitarian workers in conflict zones

April 18 2013, by Joan Fallon

Larissa Fast, assistant professor of conflict resolution at the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, has co-authored three new research reports documenting and analyzing the dangers facing humanitarian aid staff working in conflict zones around the world. The reports, recently published in *Insecurity Insight*, have already been downloaded more than 2,000 times.

In recent years, the number of aid workers killed and injured by firearms, explosive weapons, bombs and other forms of severe violence has risen to unprecedented levels, said Fast.

"Aid workers are first and foremost civilians," said Fast, whose forthcoming book, "Aid in Danger," also addresses this issue. "Protecting them is a critical part of the overall effort to protect civilians in armed conflict."

Fast coauthored the reports with Christina Wille, director of *Insecurity Insight*, a Swiss organization that generates data on the impact of insecurity on people's lives and helps organizations set up data-gathering systems on related topics.

The three new reports are:

- ["Operating in Insecurity. Shifting patterns of violence against humanitarian aid providers and their staff \(1996-2010\)."](#)

- "[Humanitarian staff security in armed conflict: Policy implications resulting from changes in the operating environment for humanitarian agencies.](#)"
- "[Security Facts for Humanitarian Agencies. Shifting patterns in security incidents affecting humanitarian aid workers and agencies: An analysis of fifteen years of data \(1996-2010\).](#)"

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Provided by University of Notre Dame

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