General Assembly

Seventy-fourth session
Agenda item 71
**Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and
disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including
special economic assistance**

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Major interrelated trends – political, economic and social – are durably shaping the global security environment. The current global security challenges create a treacherous operating environment for humanitarian and United Nations personnel.

In delivering humanitarian relief, sustaining peace, defending human rights and promoting social and economic progress, United Nations and humanitarian personnel are facing a wide range of threats from armed conflict, crime and civil unrest, to violent extremism, infectious disease outbreaks and natural disasters. They continue to work in increasingly dangerous places to help those in need.

The present report provides an overview of the global security environment, its impact on the safety and security of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, the Organization's response, and efforts by the United Nations security management system, under the leadership of the Department of Safety and Security, to meet the challenges and demands for security management to enable the work of the United Nations worldwide. The report includes observations and recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 73/137, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the resolution. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General include in his report an assessment of the impact of safety and security risks on such personnel, and of the development, implementation and outcomes of policies, strategies and initiatives of the United Nations system in the field of safety and security.

2. The present report covers the 18-month period from January 2018 to June 2019. It provides an overview of the global security environment, the associated security threats and risks facing United Nations personnel,[1] the Organization's response and the security challenges that the Organization faces. The report concludes with observations and recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

II. Security threats against United Nations personnel

A. Global security environment

3. Major interrelated trends are shaping the global security terrain: deepening regional and political divides; economic and social inequalities; rising nationalism, populism and xenophobia; mass migration; climate change; food insecurity; infectious disease outbreaks; cybersecurity and new technologies. Political and social exclusion is driving violence worldwide.

4. During 2018 and the first six months of 2019, the global security outlook showed no sign of improvement. Protracted political crises, armed conflicts, public unrest, violent extremism, human rights violations, disrespect for international law, large-scale public health emergencies and increased frequency of natural disasters pose persisting risks. This has resulted in an increasing number of populations in need of emergency humanitarian aid, stability and, more than ever, support in advancing global efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. There are three interrelated features that specifically affect global security: non-State armed actors, climate change and technological innovations. First, non-State armed actors, such as local militias, transboundary armed groups, criminal organizations and both international and homegrown violent extremist groups or cells, have established themselves as a durable feature affecting the nature and level of security threats. Homegrown violent extremism coupled with, and sometimes inspired by, international violent extremist organizations, with indiscriminate attacks against crowds and minorities, are now a serious security concern across the globe. Cyberspace has provided platforms for nationalist groups and other extremist organizations to promote violence almost anywhere. In 2018, sporadic violent extremist attacks continued across Europe. Africa remained seriously affected by terrorism and violent extremism, especially countries in the Sahel and Somalia, and

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[1] For the purpose of the present report, the term "United Nations personnel" refers to all personnel covered by the United Nations security management system, including United Nations system personnel, United Nations volunteers, individually deployed military and police personnel in peacekeeping or special political missions, consultants, individual contractors, experts on mission and other officials with a direct contractual agreement with an organization of the United Nations system. The term does not refer to military members of national contingents or members of formed police units when deployed with their contingent.

some parts even saw an increase in security threats. In 2019, the Asia and the Pacific region saw one of the worst attacks by non-State armed actors.

6.   Second, extreme climate conditions, natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks have affected countries in different regions with dire humanitarian consequences, including the displacement of populations. During the reporting period, Cyclone Idai struck Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Earthquakes and a tsunami hit Indonesia. India experienced extreme flooding. These events affected more than 4 million people. Climate change threatens to push an additional 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030,[2] which would likely further increase political and economic tensions. There have been more than 2,600 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease, including more than 1,800 deaths in parts of Ituri and North Kivu provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These events generated new needs for United Nations emergency relief and humanitarian response in support of affected populations.

7.   Third, while new frontier technologies expand global connectivity and improve lives, they also pose novel security threats. They provide tools that are used not only to promote extremist ideologies, but also to commit crimes. They also affect traditional labour markets and could thus exacerbate social and economic tensions.

8.   The number of armed conflicts has grown from 48 in 2016 to 69 in 2018.[3] In the first half of 2019, nearly 132 million people in 42 countries around the world needed humanitarian assistance. This is a drastic increase when compared with the 12-month figures for previous years, with 133 million in 2018, 128 million in 2017 and 74 million in 2010, respectively.[4] In 2018, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide rose to 70.8 million, compared with 68 million in 2017.[5]

9.   Today's global security challenges create an increasingly dangerous operating environment for humanitarian and United Nations personnel. For example, in 2018, there were 388 attacks on health care,[6] an increase from 322 in 2017.[7] Attacks against civilians and humanitarian workers in armed conflicts reflect a systemic disregard for international humanitarian law and human rights law. Humanitarian personnel still face significant threats, including harassment, intimidation, criminality and direct and indirect attacks.

10.   In this complex global context, there have been increased demands for security management support to enable the United Nations to stay and deliver on mandated activities in high risk areas. The number of United Nations operations in high-risk environments has kept growing for the past five years. The number of areas assessed as high-risk locations have increased from 125 in 2017 to 136 in 2018. United Nations personnel and humanitarian personnel risk their lives and well-being every day to carry out humanitarian, peace, development and human rights work.

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[2] Hallegatte, Stephane, Mook Bangalore, Laura Bonzanigo, Marianne Fay, Tamaro Kane, Ulf Narloch, Julie Rozenberg, David Treguer and Adrien Vogt-Schilb. *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*. Climate Change and Development Series. Washington, D.C., World Bank Group, 2016.

[3] Annyssa Bellal, ed., The War Report: Armed Conflicts in 2018, Geneva, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Norwegian centre for Human Rights, 2018.

[4] Development Initiatives, "Global humanitarian assistance report 2012".

[5] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Global Humanitarian Overview 2019", 2018.

[6] The World Health Organization defines "attack on health care" as "any verbal or physical violence or obstruction or threat of violence that interferes with the availability, access and delivery of curative and/or preventive health services during emergencies."

[7] World Health Organization (WHO), "Attacks on health care 2018 dashboard", available from www.who.int/hac/techguidance/attacks_on_health_care_q_a/en/.
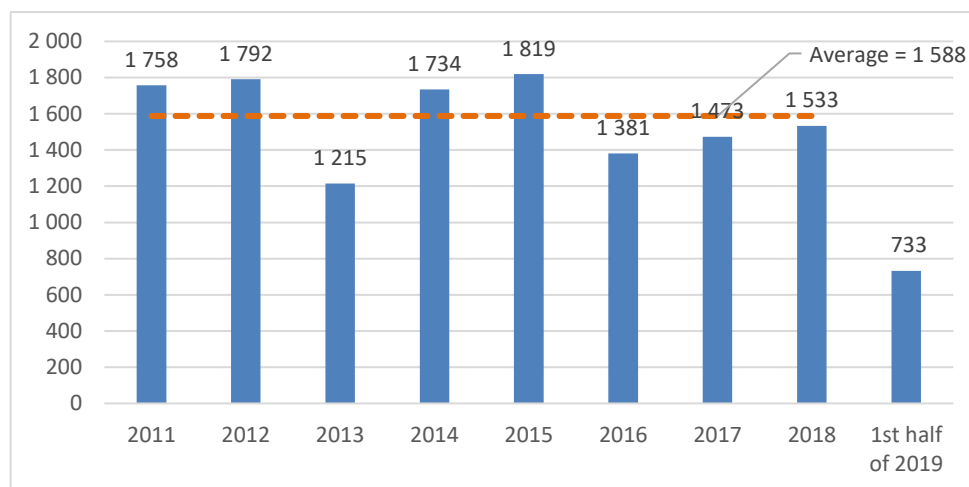
B. Security incidents affecting the United Nations security management system[8]

1. Types of incidents and their impact on United Nations personnel

11.   Overall, incidents related to safety and security affected 1,533 United Nations personnel in 2018, compared with 1,473 in 2017. While the number of incidents in 2018 increased compared with the previous year, the figure was lower than the average number of personnel affected annually between 2011 and 2018 (1,588) (see figure I).
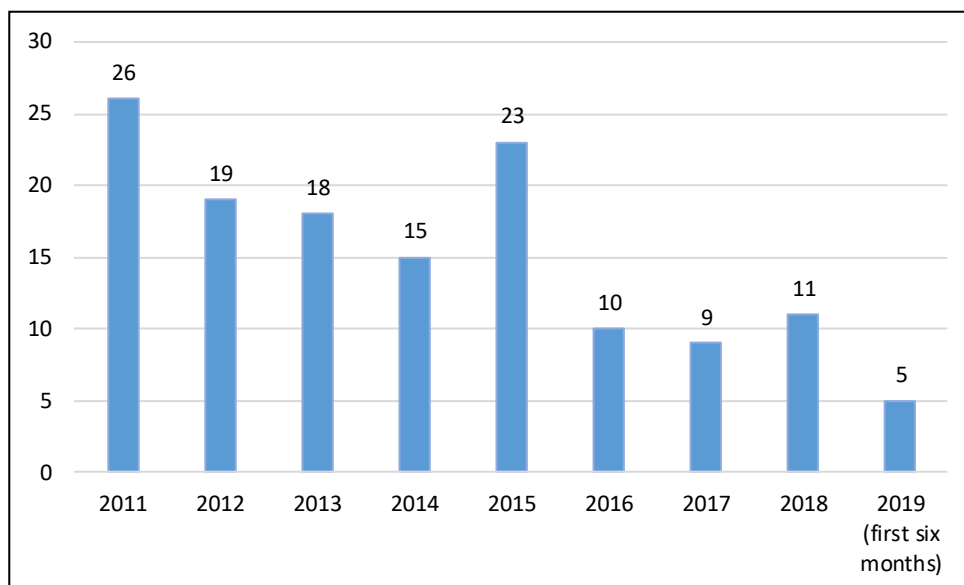
Figure I
United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents

12.   In 2018, 11 United Nations civilian personnel lost their lives as a result of acts of violence, compared with 9 killed in 2017 (see figure II). In the first six months of 2019, five United Nations personnel lost their lives as a result of violence; which is the same number for the first six months of 2018. These casualties occurred in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lesotho, Somalia and the Sudan. Every year since 2015, United Nations personnel have lost their lives to violence in Somalia. Overall, the number of United Nations personnel killed in violence has, however, remained largely the same for the past three years and the trend has been downward since 2011 (see figure II), while the United Nations has expanded its operations in multiple complex security environments. In 2018, 67 United Nations personnel were injured in acts of violence, fewer than the 111 recorded in 2017.
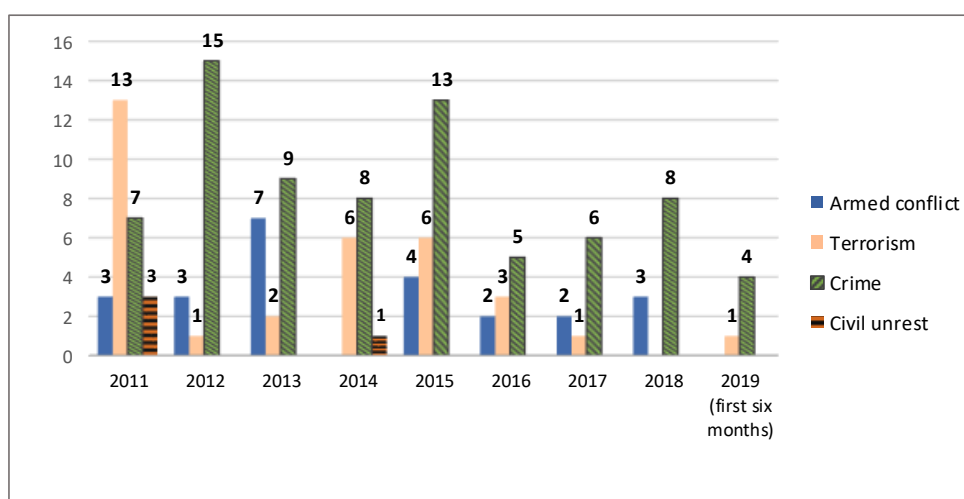
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[8] The United Nations security management system comprises all United Nations system organizations and other international organizations that have signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations for the purposes of security.

Figure II
United Nations personnel fatalities as a result of violence

13. Of 11 fatalities resulting from violence in 2018, 8 were the result of criminal acts and 3 were a result of armed conflict (see figure III and annex III). From January to June 2019, another four personnel died in crime-related incidents and one in a terrorist attack. Since 2012, crime-related incidents have been the primary source of violent deaths of United Nations personnel, accounting for over 54 per cent of deaths between 2011 and 2018, or an average of nine personnel killed annually.

Figure III
United Nations personnel fatalities by category of threat

14. There were 23 direct attacks against United Nations premises during 2018, the same number as in 2017. The number of attacks against United Nations official vehicles increased to 89 in 2018 compared with 51 in 2017 (see annex II). In May 2019, four soldiers and a journalist were killed in a roadside improvised explosive device attack in the Lake Chad Basin region targeting a United Nations vehicle.
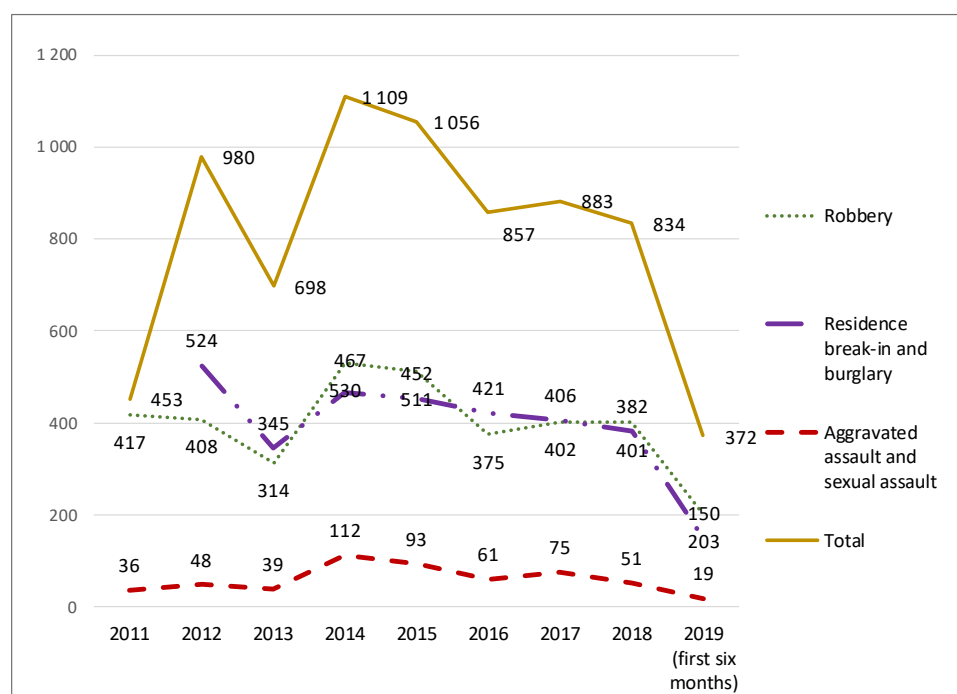
15.   In the last few years, the United Nations security management system has invested heavily in equipment and security management measures such as hardened facilities, safe rooms, armoured vehicles, an improved policy framework and training and coordination with host Governments. Those measures have significantly increased security costs and have contributed to improving the safety and security of United Nations personnel while operating in a dangerous environment.

Crime

16.   Of the 1,533 United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents in 2018, 834 (about 54 per cent) were victims of crimes which included robberies, residence break-ins, burglaries, aggravated assault and sexual assault (see figure IV and annex III). This figure shows a decrease compared with 883 incidents in 2017. Of the United Nations personnel affected by crime during 2018, 378 (around 45 per cent) were locally recruited and 456 were internationally recruited.
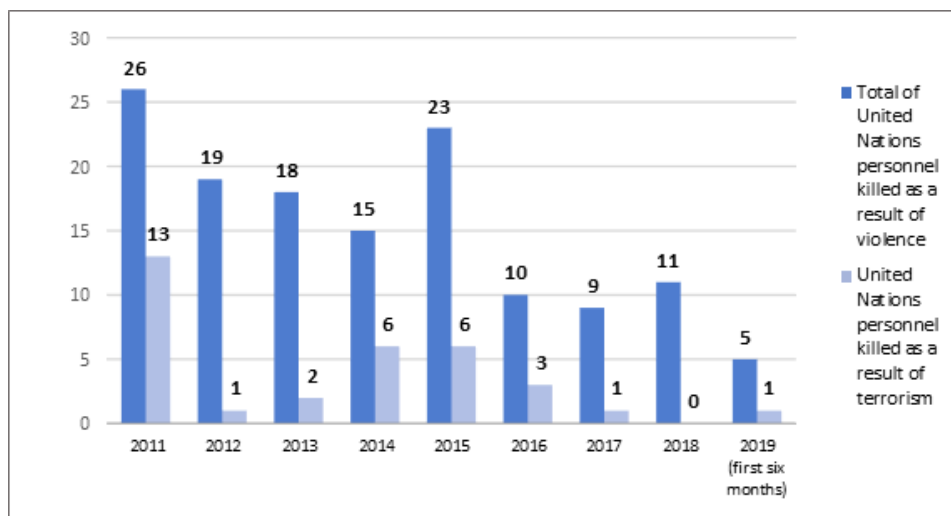
Figure IV
United Nations personnel affected by crime, by category

Terrorism

17.   Notably, 2018 was the first year since 2010 with no deaths of United Nations personnel attributed to terrorism. This follows an extended period with a significant downward trend which started after the 2011 attack in Abuja (see figure V). However, a locally-recruited staff member was killed by terrorist elements in Somalia on 31 May 2019. On 2 January 2019, members of Al-Shabaab fired at least seven mortar rounds at the United Nations Support Office in Somalia compound injuring two United Nations personnel and one contractor.

Figure V
United Nations personnel fatalities as a result of terrorism
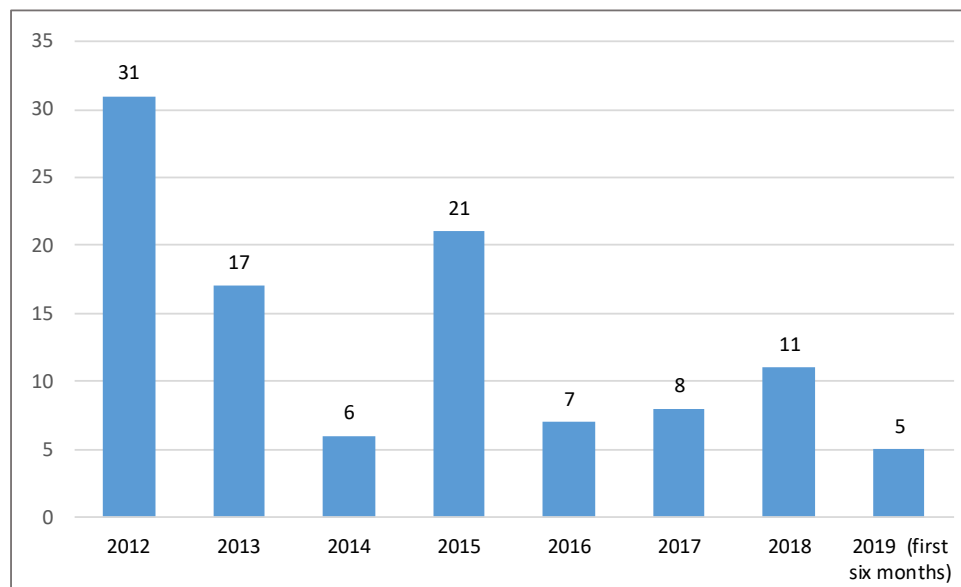

Abductions

18.   During 2018, 11 United Nations personnel (nine men and two women) were abducted (see figure VI and annex III), compared with 8 in 2017. As in the past, a majority (eight) of those abducted were locally recruited personnel. Most abductions (nine) occurred in two countries, Afghanistan (five) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (four). Tragically, one staff member abducted was killed by captors in Afghanistan; all other abducted United Nations personnel were safely released. Six of the abductions turned into hostage incidents which required significant involvement from the United Nations security management system. Although the number of personnel abducted in 2018 remained below the eight-year average of 15, the trend over the past three years has been upward. In the first six months of 2019, five United Nations personnel were abducted.

19.   The United Nations system organizations are collaborating to review the content of the hostage incident management training to incorporate lessons learned and new analysis on this type of incidents. Efforts are underway to launch an updated hostage incident course for United Nations security professionals by the end of 2019.

Figure VI
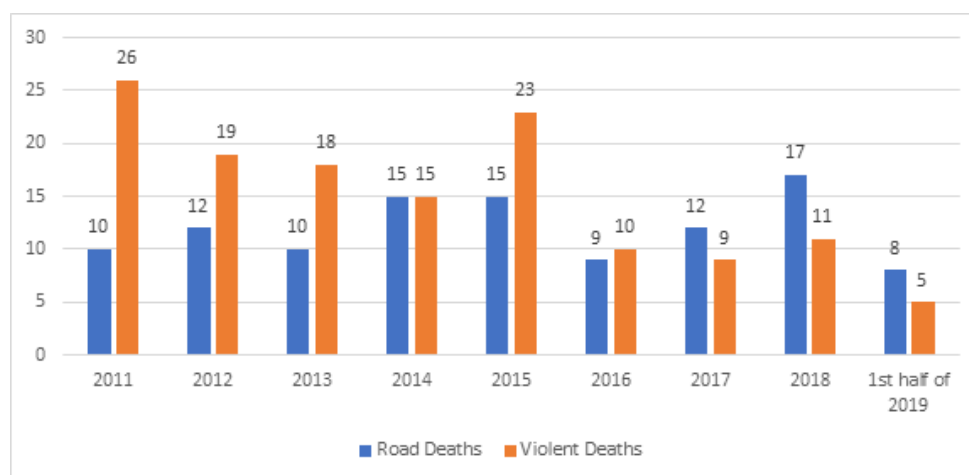**Abductions of United Nations personnel**

Safety-related incidents and road traffic incidents

20.   In 2018, 20 United Nations personnel lost their lives as a result of safety-related incidents, a notable increase from 13 deaths in 2017. During the first six months of 2019, 29 United Nations personnel lost their lives in safety-related incidents, including 21 who died on 10 March when an Ethiopian Airlines flight crashed shortly after taking off from Addis Ababa; the other eight died in road crashes. In addition, in 2018 114 personnel injured as a result of safety-related incidents, compared with 111 in 2017 and 93 in 2016 (see annex I). Most injuries caused in safety-related incidents involved road crashes (see annex III and figure VII).

21.   For the second consecutive year in 2018, more United Nations personnel were killed and injured as a result of road crashes (17 killed and 112 injured) than as a result of violence (11 killed and 67 injured). In addition, between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2019, reports indicated that 37 persons not affiliated with the United Nations died and 260 others were injured as a result of traffic accidents involving United Nations vehicles. While the trend of United Nations personnel who died as a result of acts of violence has been downward since 2011 (averaging around 16 annually), the trend for road deaths has been upward during that period, averaging over 12 annually. In 2018, 17 United Nations personnel lost their lives on roads.

22.   In February 2019, the United Nations Road Safety Strategy was launched in New York and Geneva and rolled it out in field locations. In addition, the Department of Safety and Security established its first road safety unit in 2019, within existing resources.

Figure VII
United Nations personnel killed in road safety incidents compared with those killed in violence

Intimidation and harassment

23. The reported incidents of intimidation and harassment of United Nations personnel in 2018 increased to 391 from 316 a year earlier, approaching the highest number of such incidents (405) recorded in 2015 and, therefore, well above the 10-year average of 278 (see annex I)

Arrests and detention of United Nations personnel

24. In 2018, 85 United Nations personnel were arrested or detained by national authorities, compared with 63 in 2017 (see annex I). This represents a notable increase of nearly 35 per cent. Most arrests took place in South Sudan (19) and the Sudan (11). Generally, United Nations personnel were arrested on charges related to violations of national laws including road traffic incidents, fraud and domestic violence. In 10 cases, national authorities gave no reasons for the arrests. In the first six months of 2019, 36 personnel were arrested or detained. Currently, 20 United Nations personnel remain in detention globally.

Gender-related security incidents

25. Female personnel represent approximately 40 per cent of all United Nations personnel in the field. In 2018, female United Nations personnel accounted for 31 per cent of those affected by security and safety incidents (see annex III). There was a marked reduction in the number of reported sexual assaults of both male and female United Nations personnel in 2018 compared to 2017 (10 cases versus 28). This number is close to the average of 10 cases reported annually between 2013 and 2016. In the first six months of 2019, there were five cases reported. The majority of personnel sexually assaulted in 2018 were women (80 per cent).

26. The United Nations strives to improve the prevention, response and recovery for sexual assault incidents. These include training and awareness-raising, as well as the development of an internal policy framework and the provision of guidelines to enable the development of localized operational response to gender-based security incidents.

2. **Security of locally recruited United Nations personnel**

27. In 2018, locally recruited personnel represented about 53 per cent of United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents and they accounted for 56 per cent of personnel killed as a result of violent acts. Their larger presence in the field, compared with internationally recruited personnel, has explained the larger number of incidents affecting them. However, both numbers show a significant decrease from the previous year (from 65 and 67 per cent, respectively). In 2018, locally recruited personnel were more affected than internationally recruited colleagues in safety-related incidents, sexual assault, aggravated assault and abduction. International personnel were affected to a greater extent by burglary and residence break-ins, robbery and intimidation/harassment. On 1 January 2019, the United Nations promulgated a system-wide policy on the security of locally recruited personnel, which identifies the principles and approaches for the safety and security of locally-recruited personnel.

3. **Impact of the global security environment on United Nations programmes**

28. During the reporting period, the United Nations security management system has enabled development programmes in 170 countries and territories, human rights programmes in 77 countries, peace operations in more than 35 countries and territories and humanitarian operations in more than 30 countries and territories. In order to meet the rising demands for security support, the number of surge deployments of security professionals rose to 89 in 2018 compared with 74 in 2017 and 50 in 2016. Surge officers were deployed for a total of 8,780 days during 2018, averaging 99 days per mission, and worked in 30 countries. By early September 2019, there had been 88 surge deployments, indicating that the number of surges this year will surpass deployments in 2018.

29. The Department of Safety and Security, together with the United Nations security management system, provided extensive security support to meet expanding demands for security management and enable United Nations programmes in highly complex security environments with high threat levels to carry out operations, including in Afghanistan, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. In addition, security support has been a key enabler for United Nations programmes in Ebola-affected areas in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and in areas affected by natural disasters in Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Moreover, the Department provided security support to the United Nations efforts to sustain peace in Burkina Faso, Colombia and the Lake Chad Basin region, among others.

30. Although, to date, the Department of Safety and Security has met increased demand and responded to crises through efficiency and flexibility, the growing demand far outstrips the existing resource capacity and the current situation is therefore not sustainable over the longer term.

C. Security incidents affecting humanitarian personnel of non-governmental organizations and other personnel

31. In most complex security environments, humanitarian personnel of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the area personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and peacekeepers work alongside United Nations personnel.
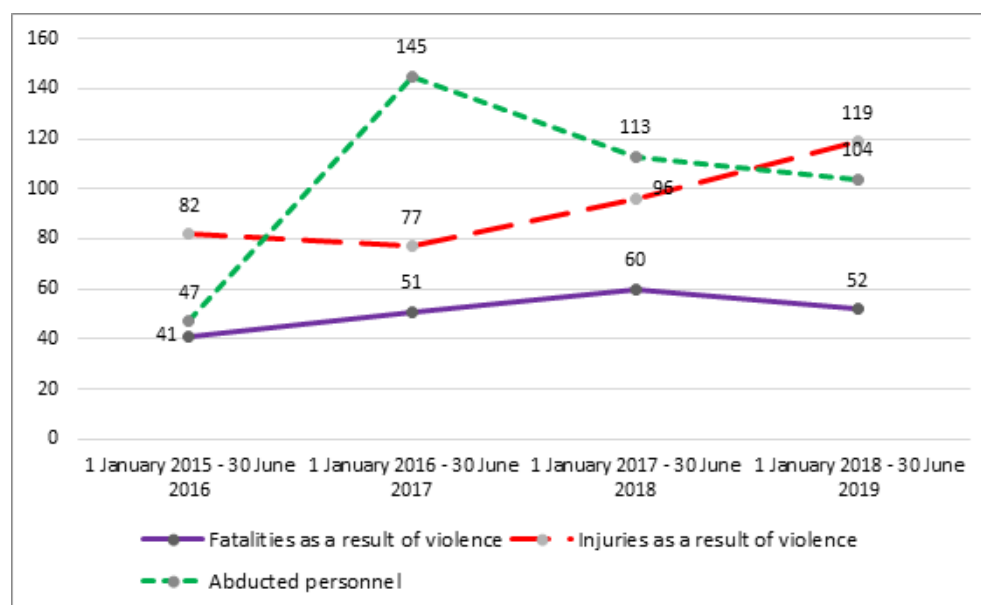
1. **Impact of security threats on humanitarian personnel of non-governmental organizations**

32.   In 2018, according to reports received by the Department, 32 NGO personnel working in close cooperation with the United Nations were killed as a result of acts of violence, 69 were injured as a result of acts of violence and 61 were abducted (see figure VIII and annex IV). This is a decrease from the number of NGO personnel affected in 2017, when 42 were killed, 62 injured and 84 abducted. In the first six months of 2019, 20 personnel of NGO implementing partners were killed, 50 injured and 43 abducted. In 2018, the number of reported attacks on NGO vehicles decreased to 72 compared with 114 in 2017.

33.   As in previous years, NGOs and implementing partners shared reports on security incidents with the Department of Safety and Security on a voluntary basis. The data are likely to be incomplete and cannot be verified or compared with other existing databases based on different terminology of security and safety incidents and methodology for data gathering.

Figure VIII
Security incidents affecting personnel of non-governmental implementing partners, as reported to the Department of Safety and Security

2. **Security incidents affecting the area personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

34.   Employing about 31,000 personnel in five fields of operation, UNRWA delivers a range of humanitarian assistance to approximately 5 million Palestinian refugees.[9] In 2018, one UNRWA area personnel died and six were injured as a result of violence, an increase compared to 2017 when there were no deaths of area personnel and five injured (see annex V). Two UNRWA area personnel died in safety-related incidents in 2018; there were no such deaths in 2017. UNRWA is improving its technical capacity, practices and process in recording safety and security incidents affecting UNRWA area personnel. As a result, there was a significant increase in UNRWA

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[9] The UNRWA data are based on security incidents reported to and recorded in the UNRWA security information management system. UNRWA area personnel are not covered by the United Nations security management system.

recorded security incidents involving theft, vandalism and intrusions into UNRWA premises. In the first six months of 2019, there were no deaths and one injury of UNRWA area personnel as a result of acts of violence.

3. Comparison with peacekeepers[10]

35. Fatalities among uniformed peacekeepers as a result of violent acts were more than halved, from 59 in 2017 to 27 in 2018. The main security threats in peacekeeping environments came from armed groups, extremists and organized criminal gangs. Across 14 peacekeeping operations, uniformed peacekeepers have been exposed to attacks involving artillery fire, mortars, rockets, small arms fire, various types of improvised explosive devices and complex attacks. On 20 January 2019, 10 peacekeepers from Chad were killed when militants in northern Mali struck a base of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. On 15 November 2018, six peacekeepers from Malawi and one from the United Republic of Tanzania were killed during operations against an armed group in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

III. Strengthening the security management system

36. The United Nations security management system, led by the Department of Safety and Security, continually faces the challenges of operating in a highly complex security environment and providing security management support, through various initiatives, as described below, to enable the conduct of United Nations mandated programmes and activities safely and efficiently.

A. Enhancing security risk management capacity for security decision makers

1. Enhanced support to designated officials

37. In 2019, the Department organized six regional workshops in crisis management and trained 113 designated officials, the most senior United Nations officials with responsibility for security in designated areas, with participation from the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Department's efforts aim to strengthen the capacity of designated officials as security decision makers through enhanced understanding of security policies and lessons learned on common operational challenges.

38. To ensure the sustainability of this training, the Department has empowered and guided United Nations security advisers to organize future crisis management training for designated officials in their respective locations. The Department is also revising and updating the handbook for designated officials, which offers practical and comprehensive advice on security management and decision-making. Also, in 2018, a total of 825 United Nations senior officials with decision-making authority completed the online security management team course.

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[10] For the purposes of this report, peacekeepers are personnel of contingent troops and formed police units. They are not covered by the United Nations security management system.

2. Strengthening security decisions

39. The system-wide programme criticality framework has contributed to an effective policy and operational approach for informed decision-making on acceptable risk that enables the United Nations programmes and operations in complex and high-threat environments. The framework contributes to the delivery of critical United Nations mandated activities in conflict and post-conflict areas; the Department provides advice in identifying the areas for the conduct of programme criticality assessments. During the reporting period, the United Nations carried out 31 programme criticality assessments in 23 countries.

3. Duty of care

40. Following the establishment of the task force on duty of care under the High-level Committee on Management, the United Nations system strives to make further progress in promoting duty of care for United Nations personnel. The Committee adopted standards on working and living conditions for personnel deployed in high-risk environments as well as initiatives to improve predeployment readiness and training, to assess health care availability and to develop measures for locally recruited personnel. The psychosocial support to personnel affected by critical incidents and new security initiatives such as the improvement of security communications and more accessible travel advisories also contributed to the system's efforts on duty of care.

B. Reinforcing security risk management strategies

1. Completing the framework of safety and security policies

41. The Inter-Agency Security Management Network has strengthened the regulatory framework to support security management, policy development and decision-making. In June 2018, the Network abolished the 2006 United Nations Field Security Handbook and endorsed the Security Policy Manual as the only authoritative source of the United Nations security management system policy and guidance. The Network endorsed a new policy on compliance monitoring, evaluation and best practices, on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and attacks, revised the guidelines on the management of safety and security crises, the guidelines on Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments training, the guidance on reflecting acceptance in Security Risk Management, and a commercial air travel safety policy. To ensure that the policies and the guidelines remain relevant and up to date, the Network maintains a rolling technical review of United Nations security management system guidance and has commenced a substantive review of prioritized policy guidance.

2. Enhancing situational awareness and threat and risk analysis

42. Security threat and risk analysis remains indispensable for situational awareness and preventive capacity to protect United Nations personnel. To strengthen further United Nations security professionals' security analysis expertise and consistency, the Department has updated and published guidance on the security analysis process and practice and launched a comprehensive training on strategic analysis warning techniques, which focuses on early warning and security analysis of unstable environments in support of senior decision makers. The Department also initiated a digital mapping project, through the GeoHub platform, which uses open source data to enhance analyses of the security environment. The project is still in trial phase with a limited number of users and further expansion would require additional investments.

3. Effective use of risk-management measures

43.   The Department of Safety and Security, in cooperation with United Nations security management system entities, remains engaged in enhancing the protection of United Nations premises and special events worldwide. The deployment of security officers from the Department's security and safety services to coordinate specialized security support enabled 24 special external events and other conferences sponsored by United Nations entities in offices away from Headquarters in 108 countries. The Department provided 180 personnel as surge capacity to enable field operations through the protection of United Nations compounds.

44.   The Department provided technical guidance on the physical protection of United Nations offices and premises (including protective walls, access control, emergency control centre installations, blast protection, overhead protection and safe rooms, among others). Moreover, the Department provided on-site technical assistance in 28 locations for projects involving new construction or refurbishment, security upgrades and improvement of existing equipment and procedures (in Afghanistan, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Yemen). The Department has introduced a mobile application for physical security assessment to allow its security professionals to identify specific site vulnerabilities and make recommendations of appropriate security risk management measures.

45.   The Department provided close protection services with the coordination of 375 complex protective operations in high-risk environments and 4,202 close protection operations for high-ranking officials' travels (in the last reporting period the corresponding figures were 369 and 2,209, respectively). The Department also worked to ensure high standards of recruitment, training and operational deployment of protective services personnel, through courses which resulted in the certification of 42 close protection officers.

46.   To ensure that the selection and use of global commercial air operators for official travel by United Nations personnel is in conformity with the highest international safety standards, the Department coordinates its safety information with 130 air travel focal points, in 24 duty stations, in all United Nations entities. The Department has provided direct support to United Nations stakeholders by responding to more than 40,000 queries concerning 5,140 air operators through its dedicated communication channels and help desk.

47.   In cooperation with the Office of Information and Communications Technology and other United Nations partners, the Department launched, earlier this year, the electronic travel advisory system, a mobile application which enables United Nations personnel to send and receive security communications, access emergency contacts, and check their travel security clearance status. The application currently has more than 21,000 users.

4. Training

48.   Security training remains a key security risk management measure to prevent and mitigate risks to personnel. The Department is creating more coherent learning paths to promote individual personnel's broader security awareness and learning in all operational settings. In November 2018, the Department launched a new mandatory online security awareness course, entitled "BSAFE", for all United Nations personnel to complete by 30 June 2019. This course replaces the basic and advanced security in the field course with updated content. The new course is now available to partners including Member States, non-governmental organizations and

other stakeholders. As at June 2019, 170,000 United Nations personnel and partners had completed the "BSAFE" course.

49. The United Nations system organizations are working together to ensure consistent quality of the security briefing and courses delivered locally and in complementarity with the learning in the "BSAFE" course, for a security training continuum. As a result, the United Nations system is developing a new guidance on the security induction programme, a mandatory briefing that all United Nations personnel are required to attend when travelling or recruited to a new location. For high-risk duty stations, efforts are ongoing to update the content of the Safe and Secure Approaches to Field Environments training programme with a greater focus on prevention and practical exercises. The training programme remains a key security risk management measure for United Nations personnel residing or travelling to high-risk locations. In 2018, 13,464 United Nations personnel and partners completed 571 Safe and Secure Approaches to Field Environments courses in 44 different countries.

5. Response to critical incidents

50. The demand for psychosocial support to United Nations personnel affected by critical incidents has grown exponentially. The Department's Critical Incident Stress Management Unit, in partnership with United Nations system organizations, provided 10,329 counselling and education sessions in 2018, compared with 8,519 in 2017. This included psychosocial support to personnel affected by the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash, the Sri Lanka terrorist attacks, the cyclone in Mozambique, civil unrest in Khartoum and the Dusit Hotel attack in Nairobi. The Department deployed Critical Incident Stress Management Unit counsellors to eight peace missions to conduct needs assessment and build staff resilience. The Department delivered training on stress management and related issues to 6,298 United Nations personnel including 183 peer helpers in various regions. Psychosocial support to personnel deployed in high-risk or hardship duty stations and following critical incidents remain a key element of the Organization's duty of care to personnel.

C. Reform efforts of the Department of Safety and Security

51. The Organization strives to adapt and adjust continuously to respond effectively to the evolving global security environment. This year, an internal realignment, within existing resources, took place with a sharper focus not only on policy, strategy and oversight, but also on specialized security services to support field operations. The Department's internal review aims to strengthen further business processes as well as transparency of intradepartmental accountability.

52. In supporting the role of the resident coordinators, in line with the Organization's development reform agenda, the Department issued guidance to clarify the authority and leadership of resident coordinators as Designated Officials for Security and as Designated Officials ad interim.

53. In realizing its human resources strategy initiated in 2017, the Department has promoted flexibility and efficiencies in human resources management for its integrated security workforce comprising about 7,000 United Nations safety and security personnel across more than 120 duty stations. In 2019, the Department carried out its managed reassignment programme for the integrated security workforce, streamlined recruitment and introduced flexible work arrangements to support work-life balance.

54. An effective response to the increasingly complex security environment requires an integrated security workforce which is agile and diverse. The Department has promoted further multidisciplinary skills, gender balance and geographical

representation in the Secretariat integrated security workforce. The Department's personnel comprise 90 nationalities, with ongoing efforts to improve further wider geographical representation. In striving to identify and recruit qualified women security officers, the Department has requested the support of all Member States, as well as professional associations worldwide to identify qualified women candidates. Indicative of recent progress, representation of women at the professional and higher levels increased by 2 per cent between 2017 and 2019. During 2018, the Department provided gender training to 250 mid-level personnel.

D. Building collaborations

1. Enhancing security collaboration between the United Nations and host Governments

55. Host Governments maintain the primary responsibility for the protection of United Nations personnel, premises and assets. Effective collaboration and engagement with host Governments remains a key component of United Nations security management. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security regularly meets with host government authorities to ensure close collaboration through the sharing of situational awareness and threat and risk analysis, the coordination of prevention and risk mitigation measures and the management of security crises. During the reporting period, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security met with the host government authorities of 17 Member States to discuss security matters.

56. In ensuring the security of United Nations Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and tribunals, the Department coordinates closely with the relevant host country authorities on the protection of these premises. The Department has maintained close coordination with host Governments to ensure the protection of United Nations facilities and the safe conduct of events that gathered thousands of delegates and civil society participants.

2. Combating impunity and promoting respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and associated personnel

57. The United Nations collaborates closely with host Governments which have the primary responsibility in protecting United Nations personnel deployed on their territories and in ensuring respect for the privileges and immunities of United Nations personnel. The Organization encourages Member States to abide by relevant international instruments. To date, only 95 States are parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994 and only 33 States are parties to the Optional Protocol thereto of 2005.

58. Following the promulgation of the standard operating procedure on victims of violence registry for fatalities in service in January 2018, the Department has collaborated with other Secretariat departments and offices and three peacekeeping missions, under the leadership of the Department of Peace Operations, to establish specialized mechanisms to ensure accountability for serious crimes against peacekeepers.

3. Strengthening partnerships with non-governmental organizations

59. The Saving Lives Together framework enhances security collaboration with implementing and operational partners of the United Nations. The Saving Lives

Together collaboration is currently at enhanced level in 16 countries[11] in various regions across the world. During the reporting period, the Department focused on fostering closer relationships with Saving Lives Together partners. This has included regular teleconferences with focal points in the headquarters of 150 partner organizations, participation of NGO security managers in United Nations security certification programmes, and the inclusion of Saving Lives Together in crisis management training for designated officials.

60.   The Saving Lives Together collaboration facilitated support to NGOs, including assistance in crisis situations, relocation and medical evacuation of personnel, when feasible. Notably, an internal review of Saving Lives Together collaboration conducted through surveys in the United Nations and the NGO community highlighted the need for more resources, increased engagement and improved knowledge-sharing to ensure greater consistency in Saving Lives Together implementation in the field. Additional capacity is recommended for stronger leadership and to achieve the necessary degree of engagement.

IV. Strategic challenges

61.   Security is a prerequisite for delivering United Nations programmes and operations. For the last 10 years, the Department has faced the constant challenge of meeting rising security demands and adapting to evolving security threats. Together with the organizations of the United Nations security management system, the Department made strides to enable United Nations programmes in the increasingly challenging security context. Often, this work also allowed other partners, Member State delegations, NGOs and Governments to operate and deliver their programmes. Confronting a fast-paced and changing environment and rising demands for security support comes at a cost. There has not been, however, a commensurate increase in security funding.

62.   Despite being a key enabler for United Nations operations, funding for security support has yet to receive a higher profile for resources mobilization. Aiming to meet the needs for specialized security operations support and services, the Department launched the trust fund with the theme "Protecting your people and investments in the United Nations" in 2018. The trust fund, however, has yet to lead to contributions from Member States. Enabling the United Nations to stay and deliver in an increasingly challenging security environment has stretched the Department's security resources to their limit and demonstrated the limitations of its funding mechanism.

63.   The Department is funded through a complex and multi-layered funding mechanism designed in the early 2000s. Field-related costs which are incurred in the field or directly related to providing operational support by Headquarters to the field offices are apportioned among participating organizations, while the central costs of the management and direction of the operation is assumed by the United Nations under the regular budget and support account for peacekeeping operations. The Department, together with the United Nations security management system organizations, is reviewing the existing funding mechanism for security to ensure that the security funding mechanism is sustainable and flexible, with adequate resources that correspond to the evolving demands to enable United Nations operations.

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[11] These include Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Asia and the Pacific region; Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan in Africa; Colombia in the Americas; and Iraq, Israel, Libya, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen in the Middle East and North Africa.

V. Observations and recommendations

64.   As the global security terrain grows increasingly complex, the international community's resolve to protect United Nations and humanitarian personnel is more critical than ever. In delivering relief to those affected by the dire humanitarian consequences of instability, United Nations and humanitarian personnel work increasingly in dangerous areas. They risk their lives and well-being to deliver multifaceted United Nations mandates, bringing relief and supporting Member States in their efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

65.   In the past 18 months, 16 United Nations personnel and more than 32 NGO humanitarian personnel lost their lives in the line of duty as a result of violence. I am deeply saddened by these deaths and express my sincere condolences to the bereaved families. The loss of one life is one too many. I condemn, in the strongest terms, all forms of violence against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. The Organization remains determined in working towards the values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The legacies of these fallen brave men and women live in our commitment to go forward boldly, to work in dangerous places to help suffering peoples and to create a better future for all.

66.   The safety and security of United Nations personnel remains my top priority. The increase in the number of incidents of abduction, intimidation, harassment, arrest and detention of United Nations personnel remains a cause of concern. In 2018, 11 United Nations personnel, most of them locally recruited, were victims of abductions, compared with 8 in 2017. A marked increase in the number of personnel affected by safety incidents reflects a troubling trend. In the reporting period, 49 United Nations personnel died as a result of safety-related incidents, including 21 who perished in a plane crash in March 2019.

67.   The unwavering commitment of more than 50 partner organizations within the United Nations security management system marks a great achievement. Together with the Department of Safety and Security, they have contributed to a continuous improvement in the protection of personnel. Strengthened security policies and measures and effective security support have resulted in the downward trends in security and safety incidents affecting United Nations personnel.

68.   The overall trends indicate that security incidents are below average over the past five years, however, there is a steady increase of security incidents in the past three years, with a total number of 1,533 incidents in 2018, compared with 1,473 in 2017. This is why predictable and adequate resources for security remain indispensable.

69.   The United Nations continuously recalibrates its security management. In line with my reform vision, the Department of Safety and Security has realigned its resources. The aim is to provide effective and efficient security support, together with United Nations partners, to enable United Nations programme delivery while protecting personnel. Yet, this effort is a constant challenge requiring adequate resources, flexibility and the review of a funding mechanism that has reached its limits. Moreover, I am calling upon Member States to contribute to the Department of Safety and Security's trust fund. Also, I am calling upon Member States to ensure that security costs are an integral part of mandate consideration and planning at the outset to ensure the protection of United Nations personnel.

70. **Besides the closer collaboration with host Governments, broadening strategic partnerships with regional organizations and non-governmental actors is an essential part of effective security management. Also, engagement with non-State armed actors is key to gaining humanitarian access and increasing their awareness on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel.**

71. **I am deeply concerned with the systemic disrespect for the principles and rules of international law and international humanitarian law. I wish to underscore the primary responsibility of host Governments and all conflicting parties in the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel. The intentional attacks on United Nations personnel may constitute a violation of international humanitarian law. I urge the host Governments to bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against United Nations and humanitarian personnel.**

72. **I recommend that the General Assembly remain engaged on the issue of the safety and security of United Nations personnel and continue to provide full support to the United Nations security management system.**

Annex I

United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents

Category of safety and security incidents	*Number of personnel affected*						
	2013	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2019 (first six months)*
Fatalities resulting from acts of violence	18	15	23	10	9	11	5
Fatalities resulting from safety-related incidents	10	15	16	11	13	20	29
Injuries resulting from acts of violence	82	65	99	70	70	67	42
Injuries resulting from safety-related incidents	144	101	130	93	111	114	69
Abduction	17	6	21	7	8	11	5
Robbery	314	530	511	375	402	401	203
Residence break-in and burglary of residence	345	467	452	421	406	382	150
Aggravated assault	35	104	81	44	47	41	19
Sexual assault	4	8	12	17	28	10	5
Intimidation and harassment	108	295	405	231	316	391	170
Arrest and detention	138	128	69	102	63	85	36
Total	**1 215**	**1 734**	**1 819**	**1 381**	**1 473**	**1 533**	**733**

Annex II

Attacks on United Nations premises and official vehicles

Category of security incidents	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (first six months)
Attacks on United Nations premises	35	56	23	23	17
Attacks on United Nations vehicles	155	146	51	89	49
Intrusion into United Nations premises	109	90	150	51	28
Total	**299**	**292**	**224**	**163**	**94**

Annex III

United Nations civilian personnel affected by security incidents in 2018

Category of security incident	Number of personnel affected	Internationally recruited	Locally recruited	Male	Female	Number of countries	Circumstances of security incidents
Fatalities resulting from acts of violence	11	5	6	9	2	9	Armed conflict (3); crime (8)
Fatalities resulting from safety-related incidents	20	4	16	17	3	14	Road traffic accidents (17, including 2 involving official United Nations vehicles); aviation (1); other safety-related incidents (2)
Injuries resulting from acts of violence	67	13	54	58	9	18	Armed conflict (4); terrorism (3); crime (60)
Injuries resulting from safety-related incidents	114	25	89	72	42	31	Road traffic accidents (112, including 27 involving official United Nations vehicles); other safety-related incidents (2)
Abduction[a]	11	3	8	9	2	7	One person killed by hostage takers, all other United Nations personnel released
Robbery[b]	401	206	195	268	133	70	
Residence break-in[c] and burglary of residence[d]	382	237	145	255	127	76	
Aggravated assault[e]	41	11	30	34	7	19	
Sexual assault	10	2	8	2	8	9	
Intimidation[f] and harassment[g]	391	217	174	240	151	72	
Arrest and detention[h]	85	4	81	83	2	27	
Total	**1 533**	**727**	**806**	**1 053**	**480**		

[a] Act of restraint through the use of or the threat of use of force or through fraudulent persuasion, including hostage-taking involving demands as conditions for liberation, executed by non-State actors.

[b] Act or instance of unlawfully taking property through the use of violence or the threat of the use of violence.

[c] Unauthorized and forceful entry with intent to commit a felony or crime aggravated by use of force or physical assault.

[d] Unauthorized and forceful entry with intent to commit a felony or crime.

[e] Unlawful act that places personnel, without consent, in fear of immediate bodily harm or battery.

[f] Act of making timid or fearful or of deterring by threats.

[g] Act of systematic or continued, unwanted and annoying actions that serve no legitimate purpose, causing substantial emotional distress.

[h] Acts executed by State actors.

Annex IV

Critical security incidents affecting personnel of United Nations implementing partners, as reported to the Department of Safety and Security

Category of security incident	Number of personnel affected		
	2017	*2018*	*2019 (first six months)*
Personnel who lost their lives as a result of acts of violence	42	32	20
Personnel injured as a result of acts of violence	62	69	50
Abducted personnel	84	61	43
Armed attacks on premises	11	21	16
Intrusion into premises	68	59	24
Armed attacks on vehicles	114	72	37
Total	**381**	**314**	**190**

Annex V

Security incidents affecting area personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Category of security incident	Number of area personnel affected		
	2017	*2018*	*Mid-2019*
Fatalities resulting from acts of violence	0	1	0
Fatalities resulting from safety-related incidents	0	2	0
Injuries resulting from acts of violence	5	6	1
Injuries resulting from safety-related incidents	3	4	0
Abduction	0	0	0
Robbery	10	9	0
Residence break-in	0	1	0
Aggravated assault	56	49	10
Sexual assault	0	0	1
Burglary of residence	0	0	0
Intimidation	102	123	38
Harassment	7	5	0
Arrest and detention	21	3	1
Missing personnel	0	2	0
Theft	3	404	189
Arson	1	4	1
Fire	0	16	6
Armed conflict	13	12	5
Explosive remnants of war	1	3	0
Vandalism	2	304	121
Road traffic accidents	2	32	7
Intrusion into United Nations premises	0	59	10
Others	13	135	32
Total	**239**	**1 174**	**422**