

Event 5000
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LATEST ALERT: MSF AID WORKER KILLED IN

MSF aid worker killed in Central African Republic

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Source: Reuters

PARIS, June 11 (Reuters) - French medical charity Doctors Without Borders said one of its aid workers was shot dead in Central African Republic on Monday while on an exploratory mission in the northwest of the country.

The northwest of the former French colony has seen waves of violence in the past two years, with sporadic rebel attacks and counter-raids by government troops who have burnt thousands of straw-thatched mud houses trying to flush out rebels.

Humanitarian agencies reckon some 290,000 civilians from northern Central African Republic have been forcibly displaced in the past 18 months, including 78,000 who have crossed into neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and Sudan.

"It is with immense sadness that Doctors Without Borders learned today of the death of one of its volunteers in Central African Republic, shot dead today during an exploratory mission in the northwest of the country," the organisation, known by its French acronym MSF, said in a statement.

"Elsa Serfass, 27, was on her first mission with MSF as a logistics worker," it added.

Following a May 30 rebel attack on the town of N'Gaoundal and a retaliation by government forces, MSF heard that the sanitary situation in the area was "catastrophic" and sent an exploratory mission that included Serfass, it said.

"During this evaluation, gunfire targeted our car and a bullet mortally wounded Elsa," MSF said.

REUTERS

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