

Aid worker killed; several taken hostage

by UPI

MOGADISHU, Somalia -- Somali gunman shot and killed a Care International aid worker in Marka, about 56 miles from Mogadishu, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, Somali gunmen attacked a convoy Sunday, taking several hostages, including two workers from the medical humanitarian group Doctors without borders, CNN reported.

In the shooting, witnesses told Shabelle Media Network worker Omar Sharif was shot and killed near a mosque in Merca. The shooting and the reason behind it were being investigated by police.

In the kidnapping incident, officials said gunmen captured three aid workers as they traveled from Rabdhure to Hudur in southwestern Somalia.

A local official said the gunmen released elders accompanying the staff, CNN reported. The attackers kept as hostages local and international staff of Doctors Without Borders, widely known by its French name, Medecins Sans Frontieres.

Michel Peremans, international coordinator for operational communications for MSF-Belgium, which operates in the region, confirmed the organization lost contact with two of its workers in Somalia.

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