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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Auditors find** **UNICEF fundraising committees have notably steep expenses and cash reserves.**

A report by the auditors that was published last June, but won’t be considered by UNICEF’s supervisory executive board until next year, highlights the fact that the national committees last year kept an average of 29 percent of overall private sector  contributions for themselves, either as expenses or as stockpiled cash. In all, more than $341 million in donations was held back by administrators in 2012, and more than $2.39 billion over the period from 2006 to 2012, amounts that the auditors dryly labeled as “high”.

**FoxNews.com -**  [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/10/29/unicef-fundraising-committees-have-notably-steep-expenses-cash-reserves/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/10/29/unicef-fundraising-committees-have-notably-steep-expenses-cash-reserves/)

**UN urges end of US embargo on Cuba for 22nd time**

The UN General Assembly on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly for the 22nd time to condemn the US economic embargo against Cuba, whose foreign minister said the American policy in place since 1959 was barbaric and amounted to genocide. There were 188 votes for the non-binding resolution, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the US of America against Cuba," in the 193-nation General Assembly. The only country that joined the US in voting against the resolution was Israel.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131029172853-telrz/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131029172853-telrz/?source=hpbreaking)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Hundreds of thousands affected by floods**

Since September, heavy rainfall has triggered severe flooding in north-west and south-east Cambodia, causing extensive damage across 20 of the country’s 24 provinces. In some provinces, areas that are normally considered safe were inundated. According to the Government, 168 people have been killed and almost 145,000 have been evacuated. Hundreds of families are still waiting for assistance, as many areas remain waterlogged. “Information from initial assessments that we undertook with national authorities indicate that in some provinces, the floods are more extensive than in 2011,” said Clare Van der Vaeren, the UN Resident Coordinator for Cambodia. “I am particularly concerned about the situation in Battambang and Banteay Meancheay provinces (in western Cambodia), where in some cases water levels have reached the roofs of houses.”

**OCHA -** [**http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/cambodia-hundreds-thousands-affected-floods**](http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/cambodia-hundreds-thousands-affected-floods)

**Philippines**

**One dead, another wounded in S. Philippine kidnap incident**

A body guard was killed, while another got injured as armed kidnappers seized an Indian mall owner on Tuesday night in the restive southern Philippine city of Cotabato, local authorities said Wednesday.

Cotabato police chief Rolen Balquin said the kidnappers and the body guards of Mike Khemani, a rich mall owner, engaged in exchange of gunfire around 6:00 p.m. Tuesday as the kidnappers tried to seize Khemani. One body guard died and another was hurt in the fighting. Then, the kidnappers fled with the victim in a black Hyundai car which was recovered by policemen an hour later in nearby village. Police and Marine elements have launched a city-wide manhunt against the suspects, Balquin said. According to the report of local witnesses, four of the suspects who wear police uniforms were last seen transferring to a motorboat. No one claimed responsibility for the latest kidnapping incident.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/30/c\_132843370.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/30/c_132843370.htm)

ESAR

**Mozambique**

**Mozambique forces overrun second ex-rebel base**

Mozambique troops have seized a second military base of the former Renamo rebels, the presidency said Tuesday, as tit-for-tat attacks raise concerns of renewed conflict after two decades of peace in the country. Presidential spokesman Edson Macuacua, said the latest raid occurred on Monday in Maringue in central Mozambique. "There was an exchange of fire but no loss of human life," he said.

It was the second attack on a base belonging to the rebel-movement-turned-opposition-party in just over a week. Meanwhile gunmen suspected of belonging to Renamo on Tuesday attacked a convoy of vehicles along a national highway near the central town of Muxungue, state radio said. A police source confirmed the attacks.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iPxjyqjHkpykd4nYbkZ1mvk1nrug?docId=bbb36641-db53-4b07-b44e-906e7513b242**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iPxjyqjHkpykd4nYbkZ1mvk1nrug?docId=bbb36641-db53-4b07-b44e-906e7513b242)

**South Africa**

**White supremacists jailed for 35 years over Mandela assassination plot**

Five leaders of a "Boer Army" white supremacist plot in South Africa to assassinate Nelson Mandela and drive blacks out of the country were sentenced to 35 years in prison on Tuesday after a trial lasting more than 10 years. A Pretoria High Court handed down sentences ranging from five to 20 years to others of the 21 defendants of the "Boeremag", a rag-tag militia of apartheid loyalists accused of a botched 2002 coup attempt in Africa's biggest economy. This had including charges of causing explosions. Some of the sentences were suspended. Nine of the accused walked free after being held for 11 years behind bars during the trial, National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Medupi Simasiku told Reuters.

**Reuters -** [**http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/\_news/2013/10/29/21230995-white-supremacists-jailed-for-35-years-over-mandela-assassination-plot?lite**](http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/10/29/21230995-white-supremacists-jailed-for-35-years-over-mandela-assassination-plot?lite)

**Zimbabwe**

**Over 2 million people in Zimbabwe to require food assistance by early next year: WFP**

Some 2.2 million Zimbabweans will need food assistance in the pre-harvest period from January to March next year, WFP said on Tuesday, warning that food security in the southern African country continues to deteriorate. Harsh weather conditions, the high cost or lack of available fertilizers and seeds, and the prospect of high food prices due to poor harvest, have all contributed to high food insecurity levels, the WFP said in its latest assessment of the country. The food security situation is at it worst since 2009, with the national maize harvest being less than last year's 1 million metric tons, and less than the country's requirement of 2.1 million metric tons, the UN News Center reported here, quoting a WFP spokesperson as saying in Geneva. Grain prices are currently 23 percent higher than this time last year, and many people have exhausted their personal stocks and are relying on buying cereals from the market.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/30/c\_132842350.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-10/30/c_132842350.htm)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Uruguay to withdraw its UN peacekeepers from Haiti**

Uruguay's president says he plans to remove his country's nearly 1,000 peacekeeping troops from Haiti. Jose Mujica said Tuesday he'll withdraw the contingent but isn't giving a date. He told local TV that he decided this because there's a "political impasse" in Haiti with elections to renew the Senate long overdue. The 9,000-strong UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti was established by the UN SC in 2004. The force has been under intense scrutiny for years and is blamed for a cholera outbreak likely introduced by a peacekeeping battalion from Nepal.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uruguay-withdraw-peacekeepers-haiti-20722304**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/uruguay-withdraw-peacekeepers-haiti-20722304)

**Cuba**

**Over 1,000 evacuated in central Cuba due to heavy rains**

Major Isidro Sanchez Alfonso, section head of National Civil Defense (NCD) in Villa Clara, said a total of 1,433 people were evacuated, and most of them were residents of the towns of Encrucijada, Sagua la Chica, Camajuani and Caibarien, local media sources reported Monday.The official said 1,354 of those evacuated went to stay with relatives or neighbors, and the rest were transferred to shelters. According to figures issued by the state-run Water Company, in the past 72 hours, as much as 12.5 to 32.7 cm of rain has fallen in parts of the province, with dams filled to 83.7 percent of their capacity after reaching 847 million cubic meters of water. Forecasts from the National Meteorology Institute, meanwhile, warn that rain will continue to fall in central Cuba.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/29/c\_132838607.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/29/c_132838607.htm)

**Peru**

**PM Jimenez resigns, more cabinet changes pending**

Peru's Prime Minister Juan Jimenez said on Tuesday he is leaving President Ollanta Humala's government and that other cabinet changes will soon be announced by his successor - a local governor and former [business](http://www.reuters.com/finance?lc=int_mb_1001) manager.Jimenez, a human rights lawyer, said in a televised interview that he will be replaced by Cesar Villanueva, the regional president of the northern department of San Martin.Sources told Reuters that Finance Minister Luis Miguel Castilla and Energy and Mines Minister Jorge Merino would likely keep their positions as they have since the start of Humala's government in July of 2011.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/30/us-peru-politics-cabinet-idUSBRE99T03N20131030?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/30/us-peru-politics-cabinet-idUSBRE99T03N20131030?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Polio outbreak in Syria threatens whole region, WHO says – UNICEF mention**

Polio has broken out among young children in northeast Syria after probably originating in Pakistan and poses a threat to millions of children across the Middle East, the WHO said on Tuesday. The crippling disease, which is caused by a virus transmitted via contaminated food and water, could spread especially fast in Syria, where civil war has led to falling vaccination rates. Twenty-two children in Deir al-Zor province bordering Iraq became paralysed on Oct. 17 and the polio virus has been confirmed in samples taken from 10 victims. Results on the other 12 are expected within days. Anthony Lake, executive director of **UNICEF**, said he had held "businesslike and encouraging" talks with Syrian Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi in Damascus. He called for the estimated half a million Syrian children who have not been vaccinated against polio and other debilitating diseases because of the war to be vaccinated. Syria has about three million under-5s in total.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/29/syria-crisis-polio-idUSL5N0IJ1IR20131029**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/29/syria-crisis-polio-idUSL5N0IJ1IR20131029)

**Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) update**

WHO has been informed of an additional laboratory-confirmed case of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection in Qatar. The patient is a 23-year-old man who was identified as a close contact of a previously laboratory-confirmed case as part of the epidemiological investigation. He is a worker in the animal barn owned by the previously laboratory-confirmed case. The man developed mild symptoms of illness and is in good condition. Preliminary investigations revealed that he did not recently travel outside the country. Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 145 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including 62 deaths.

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\_10\_29a/en/index.html**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_10_29a/en/index.html)

**Egypt**

**Egypt judges resign from trial of Islamist leaders**

The judges presiding over the trial of nearly three dozen members of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, including its top leader, stepped down Tuesday after security agencies refused to let the defendants attend the courtroom sessions, judicial officials said. The move represented a sharp pushback from within the establishment over the conduct of the trial amid criticism by the Brotherhood that wide-ranging prosecutions of its leaders, including ousted President Mohammed Morsi and group leader Mohammed Badie, are only vengeful show trials. Separately, a Brotherhood-led Islamist coalition said that Morsi refuses to appoint a lawyer to represent him in his trial, which is due to start on Nov. 4, because he does not recognize the tribunal or the political system in place since his ouster.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-judges-resign-trial-islamist-leaders-20711336**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-judges-resign-trial-islamist-leaders-20711336)

**Egypt police arrest senior Brotherhood leader.**

Egyptian authorities have detained senior Muslim Brotherhood leader Essam el-Arian, the latest arrest in a government crackdown against the Islamist movement, an Interior Ministry source said. Arian, the deputy leader of the Brotherhood-linked Freedom and Justice party, was taken into custody from a residence in New Cairo where he had been in hiding. The state news agency MENA said Arian was arrested in New Cairo but gave no further details.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/egypt-police-arrest-senior-brotherhood-leader-201310303659679684.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/egypt-police-arrest-senior-brotherhood-leader-201310303659679684.html)

**Egypt to re-open Rafah crossing for 6 days**

The Egyptian authorities will open the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip from Saturday until Thursday, a Palestinian official said. Ambassador to Cairo Barakat al-Farra said in a statement Tuesday that the agreement was reached with the Egyptian authorities to open the crossing. The statement highlighted that the terminal would be shut down on Tuesday because it coincides with an official Egyptian holiday. The ambassador urged all Gaza students studying abroad to contact the embassy as soon as possible via email.

**Ma’an -** [**http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=642492**](http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=642492)

**Iraq**

**Suicide bombers kill 11 military, police in Iraq dinner attack-police**

Two suicide bombers killed at least 11 military and police officers and wounded 19 late on Tuesday by blowing themselves up outside a Sunni militia leader's house in northern Baghdad as he was hosting dinner. Police in the Sunni neighbourhood said the leader of the Sunni "Sahwa" militia, Saeed Jassim, was not hurt, but the commander of the military battalion deployed in the region and his deputy were among those who were killed. In Mosul, a suicide bomber driving a vehicle packed with explosives detonated the car near a police checkpoint in the west of the city late on Tuesday, killing at least eight people, including three policemen, police and medical sources said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131030075748-xtswd/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131030075748-xtswd/?source=hpbreaking)

**Libya**

**Attacks in Libya's Benghazi kill three**

Three people have been shot dead in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, where security forces also found the body of a kidnapped banker, security sources said Tuesday. Benghazi was the cradle of the revolt that toppled Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, but since the strongman's ouster it has been rocked by a wave of deadly bombings and shootings. Late on Monday, gunmen opened fire on a protest tent outside a hotel, killing two people and seriously wounding five others, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity. Most of the protesters were from the Al-Obaidi tribe which is demanding the authorities speed up an investigation into the killing of General Abdel Fatah Yunis al-Obaidi, the source said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/103732-attacks-in-libya-s-benghazi-kill-three**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/103732-attacks-in-libya-s-benghazi-kill-three)

**Oman**

**Oman reports first MERS-coronavirus case**

Oman has reported its first case of the deadly MERS coronavirus, local newspapers said on Wednesday, the fourth Gulf Arab country where the strain has been found since it emerged in Saudi Arabia last year. Omani newspapers quoted Health Affairs Undersecretary Mohamed bin Saif al Hosni as saying that the patient was admitted to a hospital in Nizwa, an oasis town south-west of Muscat, suffering from a chest infection. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), which can cause coughing, fever and pneumonia, emerged in Saudi Arabia last year and has been reported in people in the Gulf, France, Germany, Italy, Tunisia and Britain. Oman Observer said the man, who was in stable condition, had the virus after contact with a person from outside the country.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131030091319-yopg6/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131030091319-yopg6/?source=hpbreaking)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Saudi Arabia to help Pakistan in eradication of polio**

Health Minister Abdullah Al-Rabeeah announced Monday that the Kingdom would support the polio campaign in Pakistan in cooperation with the WHO under the direction of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah. The minister stressed that the assistance, which would be in kind, will be carried out in line with the direction of the king. Assad Hafez, director of public health at Pakistan's Ministry of Health, extended his country's gratitude to King Abdullah for his generous support to help Pakistan in getting rid of polio and save both the mother and child.

**Arab news** - [**http://www.arabnews.com/news/469185**](http://www.arabnews.com/news/469185)

**State of Palestine**

**Israel frees Palestinian prisoners, pushes settlement plan**

Israel freed 26 Palestinian prisoners on Wednesday as part of US-brokered peace efforts, but said it was pressing on with plans to build more homes for Jewish settlers, in an apparent move to appease hardliners. The inmates, who were convicted of killing Israelis, basked in a heroes' welcome from hundreds of relatives and well-wishers in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "Our heroes are coming home, long live the prisoners," crowds chanted outside the office of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131030094621-9vs91/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131030094621-9vs91/?source=hpbreaking)

**Sudan**

**Seven Sudan university professors arrested in crackdown on protests**

Sudanese authorities arrested seven university professors, a human rights lawyer said on Tuesday, extending a crackdown on opposition activists after fuel price increases touched off the country's worst unrest for years. The Khartoum government cut fuel subsidies to ease a financial crunch aggravated by the secession of oil-producing South Sudan in 2011. The move doubled pump prices overnight and triggered violent protests in which dozens of people were killed and more than 700 people arrested. The seven academics were detained on Monday evening as they met at Ahfad University in the capital, lawyer Nabeel Adeeb said. The meeting was held to discuss a common stand against the crackdown, another professor aware of the encounter said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131029155212-nn310/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131029155212-nn310/)

**Syria**

**Damascus, rebels coordinate to let 1,800 civilians flee siege**

A rare moment of coordination between the Syrian government and rebels enabled 1,800 civilians to flee a besieged town on the edge of Damascus on Tuesday, but thousands remain trapped with little food, water or medicine. A source in the Ministry for Social Affairs said the evacuation from Mouadamiya had gone ahead with the help of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and some civil groups. "I was living in terror and now I am free and safe with the army, thank God," a resident of Mouadamiya told a Reuters reporter on condition of anonymity. "There is no food or water. We got out with a new spirit now."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131029154840-ed31j/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131029154840-ed31j/?source=hpbreaking)

**Tunisia**

**Suicide bomber hits Tunisia beach, nearby attack foiled**

A suicide bomber blew himself today on a beach in Tunisia's resort town of Sousse while security forces foiled another planned attack nearby, the interior ministry said. "A man blew himself up on a beach in Sousse," ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Laroui said, adding that no one else was killed. Witnesses said the attack took place at around 1400 IST and near the Riadh Palm hotel in the centre of the coastal town, which lies 140 km south of Tunis and is a popular tourist destination. The bomber was spotted and chased away from the hotel, blowing himself up on an empty beach. The ministry was unable to give details of his identity. In the nearby town of Monastir, security forces arrested an 18-year-old man who planned to blow himself up at the tomb of Tunisia's independence leader Habib Bourguiba, Laroui said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/suicide-bomber-hits-tunisia-beach-nearby-attack-foiled-113103000823\_1.html**](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/suicide-bomber-hits-tunisia-beach-nearby-attack-foiled-113103000823_1.html)

**Yemen**

**Local al-Qaida commander arrested by Yemen security forces**

Yemeni security forces arrested a local commander of the al-Qaida terrorist group in the southeastern province of Hadramout on Tuesday evening, a provincial security official told Xinhua. The captured al-Qaida leader identified as Omar Salem is one of the most dangerous wanted al-Qaida members plotting to carry out assassinations and armed attacks against army bases in Hadramout, the security source said on condition of anonymity. The official accused Salem of being a "well-known explosives expert and a local commander of the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch in Hadramout province." Salem also masterminded bomb blasts and armed attacks in neighboring southeastern province of Shabwa and a string of bombings elsewhere in southern Yemen, according to the official.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/30/c\_132842314.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/30/c_132842314.htm)

ROSA

**India**

**Two more bombs found in Indian city hit by serial blasts**

Two more bombs were found in the eastern Indian city of Patna, two days after serial blasts killed six and injured over 80, said police Tuesday. The bombs were found in and around Patna's Gandhi Maidan, an open space which is used for political rallies, concert and other mass activities. Sunday's blasts took place when the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a huge rally at the spot during which the party's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi made a speech to tens of thousands of his supporters. Indian police suspect the home grown terror group Indian Mujahideen was responsible for the attack and have arrested at least two suspects.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/29/c\_132841886.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/29/c_132841886.htm)

**Sri Lanka**

**Sri Lanka detains international media rights activist**

Immigration authorities raided a meeting of journalists in Sri Lanka's capital Wednesday and detained an Australian activist on a charge of working without a visa, a local rights group said. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) representative for the Asia-Pacific region, Jacqui Park, was taken into custody by immigration officials, the Free Media Movement (FMM) said. "She was meeting with us at a hotel in Colombo while on holiday," said FMM spokesman Sunil Jayasekera. "She was not engaging in any work as such, but was meeting with friends she had made over the years." There was no immediate comment from immigration officials or from the Brussels-based IFJ which has supported Sri Lanka's media activists for years.

**AFP -** [**http://nz.sports.yahoo.com/news/sri-lanka-detains-international-media-124234981--spt.html**](http://nz.sports.yahoo.com/news/sri-lanka-detains-international-media-124234981--spt.html)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**UNHCR urges against forced returns to Nigeria amid rising violence in the north**

Amid rising violence in north-east Nigeria, the UN refugee agency on Tuesday issued a new return advisory urging countries in the region against forced returns of people fleeing the affected area.

"We are also urging that borders be kept open for Nigerians fleeing the country and who may be in need of international protection. The violence has displaced an estimated 5,000 people within the region, but humanitarian access is difficult and UNHCR believes the number affected could be much higher.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131029162104-x6mdh/?source=hppartner**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131029162104-x6mdh/?source=hppartner)

**OCHA Operations Chief “extremely concerned” about situation in CAR; sees new hope in DRC**

OCHA’s Director of Operations, John Ging, said today that he was extremely concerned about the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), which he described as “a tinderbox.” “Half the population of the Central African Republic is in need of humanitarian aid,” said Mr. Ging. “There has been a complete breakdown of law and order and the first priority is protection and the restoration of security and stability. The atrocities against civilians are indescribable.” Mr. Ging said that in areas around Kaga-Bandoro, where troops from the Central African Multi-National Force (FOMAC) were stationed, the Emergency Directors found the situation calmer and more stable, and people were beginning to return, showing the possibility of progress.

**OCHA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/ocha-operations-chief-%E2%80%9Cextremely-concerned%E2%80%9D-about-situation-central**](http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/ocha-operations-chief-%E2%80%9Cextremely-concerned%E2%80%9D-about-situation-central)

**CAR**

**UN Council approves protection force**

The UN Security Council on Tuesday approved sending a special 250-strong military force to protect UN workers in increasingly chaotic Central African Republic, diplomats said. UN leader Ban Ki-moon asked for the special force last week because of the anarchic conditions in the impoverished nation where rebels seized power in March. The 15-nation Security Council replied to Ban on Tuesday giving agreement, diplomats said. The force will not be traditional blue helmet peacekeepers. Their rarely used orders will only be to protect UN workers and premises. A similar force was sent to protect UN staff in Iraq at the height of its sectarian strife after the US-led invasion of 2003.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131029/un-council-approves-central-africa-protection-force**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131029/un-council-approves-central-africa-protection-force)

**Amidst new displacements, UNICEF running low on life-saving supplies**

With increasing numbers of people displaced by violence across the Central African Republic, **UNICEF** warns that growing needs will exceed available emergency supplies in the coming weeks.

“Wherever our mobile teams go, they are seeing more people displaced by violence,” said Bob McCarthy, **UNICEF** Emergency Coordinator in CAR. “Often, families leave everything behind when they flee and many remain in the bush without assistance. Their needs are more than what was planned for months ago, and we now risk running out of emergency supplies.” Since renewed violence broke out in August, more than 44,000 displaced people have received plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and soap with UNICEF support. UNICEF and its partners continue to respond with emergency distributions in the conflict- affected areas in North-West and South-East parts of the country, through the Rapid Response Mechanism.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70760.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70760.html)

**WFP gets closer to people in dire need of assistance**

When WFP and other humanitarian agencies returned to Bouar in October, residents welcomed them with applause, songs and traditional dances. The people here have suffered a lot from food shortages,” said Ali Haoudou Moumini, the mayor of Bouar. “We hope WFP will continue to help us, and especially the youth, to reconstruct roads and resume agricultural activities through its food-for-work programme,” he added. Up to 500,000 people need immediate food assistance across CAR and this figure is likely to increase because the planting season has been disrupted by conflict and displacement.

**WFP -** [**http://www.wfp.org/stories/central-african-republic-wfp-gets-closer-people-dire-need-assistance**](http://www.wfp.org/stories/central-african-republic-wfp-gets-closer-people-dire-need-assistance)

**DR Congo**

**Six people dead in Lubumbashi munitions depot attack**

Six people were killed Tuesday in clashes between military police and a group of separatist attackers at a munitions depot in the southwestern DR Congo city of Lubumbashi, officials said. "There were six deaths, three attackers and three soldiers," said the mayor of DR Congo's second largest city, Jean-Oscar Sanguza. The attack was led by "separatists from the Bakata-Katanga", a group fighting for the independence of Katanga province, according to an intelligence source. Five members of the rebel group had been arrested by late afternoon on Tuesday, Sanguza said, with parts of the city shut off in an attempt to catch fugitives. A military source said the group also attacked the residence of a military police commander.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hwYOTI1uyA5Mo\_JhGw44WXBU5\_5w?docId=99967aec-4d14-4587-b258-065ceca68129**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hwYOTI1uyA5Mo_JhGw44WXBU5_5w?docId=99967aec-4d14-4587-b258-065ceca68129)

**Congo's army says closing in on last rebel positions**

Congo's UN-backed army closed in on some of the last pockets of territory held by M23 rebels on Wednesday, a local commander and a United Nations official said. Rebel officials, who have retreated in the past only to resume fighting, were not immediately available for comment, though their Twitter account said there were clashes 20 km from Bunagana, near the border with Uganda and Rwanda. Democratic Republic of Congo's army has pushed the rebels back several times over the last week, prompting the French ambassador to the United Nations to declare on Monday that M23 was "militarily finished".

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131030124808-afcdp/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131030124808-afcdp/?source=hpbreaking)

**Mali**

**Government lifts arrest warrants against Tuareg chiefs**

Mali's government has lifted arrest warrants against four leaders of the west African country's ethnic Tuareg rebellion in the name of "national reconciliation", the justice ministry announced Tuesday.

The warrants were issued several months ago against rebel leaders in the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA). "The arrest warrants against Ibrahim Ag Mohamed Assaleh (MNLA), Mohamed Ag Intalla, Ahmada Ag Bibi and Alghabass Ag Intalla (HCUA) are lifted to facilitate the pursuit of the process of national reconciliation," a justice ministry official said. Along with about 30 other prominent Tuareg separatist rebels, the four men were wanted for taking up arms early in 2012 in the desert north of Mali, territory they know as Azawad and consider their natural homeland.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131029/mali-rulers-lift-arrest-warrants-against-tuareg-chiefs**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131029/mali-rulers-lift-arrest-warrants-against-tuareg-chiefs)

**Nigeria**

**At least 128 people dead in Damaturu**

A 5-hour battle between Islamic extremists and army troops in the capital of Yobe state killed at least 127 people, all but two combatants, according to reports from army and police officers that raise doubts about military claims that they have the upper hand in Nigeria's fight to halt an Islamic uprising in the northeast. Details still are trickling in about the attack, which militants began at dusk Thursday on an army barracks 20 km outside Damaturu, the capital, where they overpowered the soldiers, seized an armored car, looted the armory and set the barracks ablaze with improvised explosive devices. The reports were given to Yobe state Gov. Ibrahim Gaidam by military officers as he toured the destroyed sites with a heavily armed escort on Monday. Journalists accompanying the tour heard the reports.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamic-attack-128-dead-nigeria-state-capital-20713736**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/islamic-attack-128-dead-nigeria-state-capital-20713736)

**Cholera outbreak kills 74 people**

The Federal Government on Monday said 74 persons had been confirmed dead in the current outbreak of cholera in some parts of the country. It also said that a total of 373 persons had fallen victim of the disease so far. To check the rampant cases of cholera, the government advised that citizens should stop open defecation while state and local governments should ensure the provision of toilets and ventilated pit latrines. Minister of Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu said his government had been working with the states affected by the cholera outbreak in terms of ensuring that the correct treatments were given to affected persons.

**Royal times -** [**http://royaltimes.net/more/health/cholera-outbreak-fg-confirms-death-of-74-persons/**](http://royaltimes.net/more/health/cholera-outbreak-fg-confirms-death-of-74-persons/)

This update is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a compilation of humanitarian, political and security-related media stories. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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