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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**AJOC Welcomes Peacekeeping mission extension**

The UN Security Council (UNSC) has renewed the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Abyei border region between Sudan and South Sudan. In a unanimously adopted resolution, the 15-member Council decided to extend the mandate of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for an additional four-and-a-half months, until Feb 28, 2015.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.sudanvisiondaily.com/details.html?rsnpid=241503**](http://news.sudanvisiondaily.com/details.html?rsnpid=241503)

**Turkey signs strategic cooperation agreement with Afghanistan**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has arrived in Kabul to sign a strategic cooperation agreement with Afghanistan. Erdogan is scheduled to meet Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and other high-level officials during his visit -- the first by a Turkish president in nearly 60 years. The security pact outlines commitments related to cooperation in the area of military training, fighting insurgency and maintaining peace and stability in the region. It also focuses on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. About 400 Turkish soldiers are deployed as part of a NATO mission in Afghanistan and are responsible for maintaining security around the capital.

**DPA -** [**http://www.dpa-international.com/news/asia/turkey-signs-strategic-cooperation-agreement-with-afghanistan-a-43006368.html**](http://www.dpa-international.com/news/asia/turkey-signs-strategic-cooperation-agreement-with-afghanistan-a-43006368.html)

**Iran says militants infiltrating from Pakistan**

Iran claims to have that militants are entering the country from neighboring Pakistan to carry out attacks and will be pursuing the matter through "diplomatic channels," an Iranian military official said Saturday. On Friday the spokesman for Pakistan's Frontier Corps said Iranian border guards opened fire at a patrol van, killing a member of the paramilitary border guard and wounding three other troops. The shooting came a day after Iranian Brig. Gen. Hussein Salami issued a stark warning to Pakistan, saying that Iranian forces may enter Pakistani territory to "prevent terrorists" from entering Iran.

**AP -** [**https://news.yahoo.com/iran-says-militants-infiltrating-pakistan-194701490.html**](https://news.yahoo.com/iran-says-militants-infiltrating-pakistan-194701490.html)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Albanian prime minister's Serbia trip postponed after football incidents**

A visit by the Prime Minister of Albania to Serbia has been postponed after nationalist tensions were escalated over a football match brawl. Albania has condemned the burning of one of its flags at another soccer game. The Serbian Prime Minister and Rama spoke with the Prime Minister of Albania on 10 October, agreeing that the trip should not take place until 10 November. In a joint statement, both said the violence at the Euro 2016 qualifying match between Serbia and Albania earlier this week was "very unfortunate."

**DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/albanian-prime-ministers-serbia-trip-postponed-after-football-incidents/a-18007186**](http://www.dw.de/albanian-prime-ministers-serbia-trip-postponed-after-football-incidents/a-18007186)

**Ukraine**

**Shelling in Donetsk kills 4 civilians**

Four civilians were killed and nine wounded by shrapnel during fighting on 18 and 19 October in eastern Ukraine's separatist stronghold city of Donetsk, local officials said. Speaking at a daily security briefing in Kiev on 19 October, a military spokesperson said 13 Ukrainian servicemen had been wounded in the past 24 hours in fighting in the east. There was no immediate word on casualties among rebel fighters.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/113378/World/International/Four-people-killed-in-east-Ukraine-fighting-Kiev.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/113378/World/International/Four-people-killed-in-east-Ukraine-fighting-Kiev.aspx)

EAP

**China**

**Hong Kong street clashes erupt despite imminent talks**

Violent clashes erupted in Hong Kong early on Sunday for a second night, deepening a sense of impasse between a government with limited options and a pro-democracy movement increasingly willing to confront police. Beijing has signaled through Hong Kong's leaders that it is not willing to reverse a decision in August that effectively denies the financial hub the full democracy the protesters are demanding. Hong Kong's 28,000 strong police have been struggling to contain a youth-led movement that has shown little sign of waning after three weeks of standoffs.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/19/us-hongkong-china-idUSKCN0I404520141019**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/19/us-hongkong-china-idUSKCN0I404520141019)

**Hong Kong protests continue after violence; talks likely Tuesday**

Violence flares again as protesters reoccupy streets in Mongkok District of Hong Kong. Riot police clashed violently with pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong on Saturday as demonstrators reoccupied a camp mostly cleared the previous day, leading to 26 arrests and jeopardizing talks aimed at ending a political stalemate. A government official said talks between Hong Kong authorities and protest leaders were likely to take place on Tuesday.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/18/hong-kong-protests-violence-flares-again-activists-retake-streets**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/18/hong-kong-protests-violence-flares-again-activists-retake-streets)

**Indonesia**

**Joko Widodo sworn in as Indonesia's new president**

Joko Widodo, the winner of Indonesia's presidential election in July, has been sworn in as the leader of the South East Asian nation. Popularly known as Jokowi, the 53-year-old took the oath of office at a ceremony held at parliament in Jakarta.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29684776**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29684776)

**Malaysia**

**Malaysia to pursue children in armed conflict issue as UNSC Member**

The subject of children in armed conflict will be a priority issue Malaysia will pursue as a non-permanent member of the UNSC said the country's permanent representative to the UN, Datuk Hussein Haniff. He said Malaysia welcomed the report by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict and commended the noble campaign of 'Children, Not Soldiers' launched by the special representative and UNICEF.

**The Star -** [**http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/10/18/UNSC-Malaysia-Children-armed-conflict/**](http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/10/18/UNSC-Malaysia-Children-armed-conflict/)

**Philippines**

**Freed Abu Sayyaf hostages arrive at German embassy**

A German couple kidnapped by Abu Sayyafmilitants were handed over to their embassy Saturday after a six-month ordeal marked by constant threats of beheading. Officials said a private plane flew Stefan Okonek, in his 70s, and his partner Henrike Dielen, in her 50s, to Manila from the southern port of Zamboanga at dawn after Abu Sayyaf gunmen released them late Friday.

**ABS CBN -** [**http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/10/18/14/freed-abu-sayyaf-hostages-arrive-german-embassy**](http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/10/18/14/freed-abu-sayyaf-hostages-arrive-german-embassy)

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/germans-hostages-released-in-southern-philippines/2488065.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/germans-hostages-released-in-southern-philippines/2488065.html)

[ESA](#ESA)

**Madagascar**

**Police tear gas demo for arrested ex-president**

Madagascar police on 18 October fired tear gas at supporters of ex-president Marc Ravalomanana, who was placed under house arrest this week after returning to the country for the first time since he was deposed in a 2009 coup. Authorities banned the planned rally but about 300 supporters ignored the decree and clashed with the police in Antananarivo where the former leader was arrested after arriving from exile in South Africa. It was not clear if anyone was injured during the clashes.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/18/us-madagascar-protests-idUSKCN0I70KD20141018**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/18/us-madagascar-protests-idUSKCN0I70KD20141018)

**Mozambique**

**Opposition leaders reject early elections result**

The leaders of Mozambique's opposition parties said on 19 October they reject early results which show victory for the ruling Frelimo party. The ruling Frelimo party's candidate, Filipe Nyusi, leads by 62% of the votes counted so far, while the opposition party Renamo has just under a third of the votes counted and the Mozambique Democratic Movement has just over 10%. Vote counting is still underway.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mozambique-opposition-leaders-reject-early-result-170349298.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mozambique-opposition-leaders-reject-early-result-170349298.html)

**South Sudan**

**WFP worker abducted at gunpoint**

Eight armed men abducted an aid worker in South Sudan as he tried to board a plane to leave the conflict-hit Upper Nile region after receiving threats, a WFP said on Friday. WFP said it had sent security staff to accompany the South Sudanese man to Malakal airport, where he was snatched at gunpoint by plain-clothed men while waiting in line to board a flight to the capital Juba.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141017140612-4hemt/?source=jtOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141017140612-4hemt/?source=jtOtherNews3)

# **S. Sudanese rebel leader in Nairobi for talks with Kenyan president**

Former South Sudan's vice-president, Riek Machar, who leads the opposition faction of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM-in-Opposition) is in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to meet President Uhuru Kenyatta. He said the visit comes following an invitation by the Kenyan leadership for consultations with Machar on the peace process mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

**All Africa -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201410171799.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201410171799.html)

**UN confirms relocation of displaced Nuers to new site in Bor**

At least 1,100 IDPs of Lou Nuer ethnic origin, who have been living at the UN camp in Jonglei state capital Bor, have been relocated to a new site. OCHA began relocating IDPs to the new site, which has been constructed within the same UN compound, but features improved facilities, on 9 October. So far around 1,100 IDPs of the estimated 2,700 living among peacekeepers at UN camp have been moved.

**Sudan Tribune - <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article52771>**

LAC

**Haiti**

**Police break up opposition demo**

Haitian police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse an opposition demonstration in Port-au-Prince, provoking young activists to throw stones in response. Protest leader Senator Moise Jean-Charles alleged that officers deliberately fired tear gas canisters at protesters. Reporters also complained that police had targeted a press bus with a water cannon and had deployed tear gas against them. The clashes erupted during the annual commemoration of the death of national hero.

**AFP -** [**http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-12310-haiti-politic-anti-government-demonstration-dispersed-by-security-forces.html**](http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-12310-haiti-politic-anti-government-demonstration-dispersed-by-security-forces.html)

**Mexico**

**Tropical storm Trudy batters southern coast, kills six people, displaces thousands**

Six people were killed as tropical storm Trudy, since downgraded to a tropical depression, lashed Mexico, prompting evacuations and stranding 16 communities, authorities said on 19 October. Some 2,000 people were evacuated from three towns in the mountain region hardest hit by Trudy. Authorities urged residents not to return home for at least 48 hours, until the threat of landslides passed.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/tropical-storm-batters-southern-mexico-coast-kills-one-193011913.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/tropical-storm-batters-southern-mexico-coast-kills-one-193011913.html)

**Nicaragua**

**Flooding leaves 24 people dead, at least 33,000 displaced**

Rain that has swamped most of Nicaragua for days has killed 24 people, authorities said on 19 October, sparking fears of a potential health crisis in some areas. The flooding has left more than 33,000 people homeless and many are cramming into shelters around the country, the government spokeswoman and First Lady said. The government has rushed 5,000 emergency food kits to an area on the Caribbean coast near the Honduran border where mostly Miskito indigenous people have been cut off by the overflowing Prinzapolka and Coco rivers. Local officials are worried the over-soaking could boost mosquito populations, therefore increasing the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/nicaragua-flooding-leaves-24-dead\_1487287.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/nicaragua-flooding-leaves-24-dead_1487287.html)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-29679163**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-29679163)

**Venezuela**

**Shortages hinder battle against fever outbreaks**

Shortages have complicated Venezuela's efforts to treat severe outbreaks of mosquito-borne fevers this year, creating long lines at pharmacies to buy medicines and leaving the ill without treatments for swollen joints and aching bones. Venezuela has South America's highest incidence of chikungunya. The country has also seen an upsurge this year in the similarly harsh dengue fever. The government said it will import 29 million acetaminophen tablets to ease the shortage. A lack of laboratory materials to test for Chikungunya has also left doctors unable to verify the exact number of cases. Official statistics put the figure at 788 confirmed, and another 2,000 suspected. Venezuela's economy has struggled for almost two years to keep shelves stocked and now faces inflation that tops 63%.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/16/us-venezuela-health-idUSKCN0I526F20141016**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/16/us-venezuela-health-idUSKCN0I526F20141016)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Roadside Bomb Kills 7 in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula**

An explosion ripped through the armoured vehicle traveling south of el-Arish, the provincial capital of North Sinai, as it headed to a natural gas pumping station to comb it for suspected militant activities. The northern part of the Sinai Peninsula has been a haven for militants, who have waged regular attacks against troops and security forces. Most of the recent major attacks were carried out by an al-Qaida-inspired group called Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, or Champions of Jerusalem, which is based in northern Sinai where the Egyptian army has carried out a yearlong offensive.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/roadside-bomb-kills-egypts-sinai-peninsula-26303633**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/roadside-bomb-kills-egypts-sinai-peninsula-26303633)

**Iraq**

**Iraq has executed 60 people this year**

Iraqi authorities have executed at least 60 people so far in 2014, a UN report said on 19 October, expressing concern that “irreversible miscarriages of justice” were taking place in some death penalty cases. The UN special envoy to Iraq, urged the Iraqi government to reconsider its position on the implementation of the death penalty. He said the high number of executions in Iraq is, “alarming, especially since many of these convictions are based on questionable evidence and systemic failures in the administration of justice.”

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-executed-60-people-year-26305509**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/iraq-executed-60-people-year-26305509)

**Libya**

**US, European powers call for ‘immediate’ halt to violence**

The United States joined Britain, France, Germany and Italy on Saturday in calling for an "immediate" end to long-running violence there between government forces and militias. The countries also said in a joint statement that they were ready to use individual sanctions against hostile actors who "threaten the peace, stability or security of Libya or obstruct or undermine the political process."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/us-european-powers-call-immediate-halt-libya-violence-205052799.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/us-european-powers-call-immediate-halt-libya-violence-205052799.html)

**At least 75 killed in five days of fighting in Benghazi**

Nine people were killed in new violence in Benghazi where pro-government forces have launched an offensive against militias, raising the toll to 75 dead in five days, medics said. Fierce fighting raged in several parts of Libya's second city between pro-government forces led by Haftar and militias. Air raids carried out by units of the air force loyal to Haftar pounded militants positions.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/75-killed-five-days-fighting-libyas-benghazi-202405882.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/75-killed-five-days-fighting-libyas-benghazi-202405882.html)

**State of Palestine**

**Abbas says keen to keep dialogue with Hamas to end rift**

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Saturday that he is keen to keep the dialogue with Hamas movement to finalize reconciliation and end the internal rift. "Our dialogue with Hamas will continue until achieving the full reconciliation," he said. "The last agreement we reached with Hamas is based on two major issues, forming the unity government and going for elections," said Abbas.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-10/19/c\_133726503.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-10/19/c_133726503.htm)

**Yemen**

**Houthis push south into Ibb**

Yemen's Shia Houthi fighters continue to push south in Ibb province, taking over the town of Yarim after dismantling a protest camp blocking the country's main airport in the capital Sanaa. Sunday's developments came amid reports that the governor of Sanaa province had resigned after his headquarters were stormed by the Houthis. The Houthis captured Sanaa on September 21 after weeks of anti-government protests centring on fuel-price rises. The Houthis, who hail from Yemen's northern highlands and champion the interests of the Zaidi community that makes up a fifth of Yemen's 25 million population, are starting to impose their authority outside Sanaa as well as in it. The group wants the northern part of the country to be one region instead of three and they are also seeking a bigger say in drafting the constitution.

**Al Jazeera - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/10/yemen-houthis-push-south-into-ibb-2014102014621476170.html>**

**Al-Qaeda attacks kill 20 Yemen Shiite rebels in Radaa**

At least 20 Shiite rebels were killed in clashes with [Al-Qaeda](javascript:void(0)) militants and a car bombing in Yemen's central town of Rada, tribal sources said Monday. Al-Qaeda militants overnight blew up a vehicle parked near a house where the Shiite rebels were gathered in Rada, the sources said, adding that 12 rebels had also been captured in clashes in the Rada region.

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Oct-20/274667-al-qaeda-attacks-kill-20-yemen-shiite-rebels.ashx#axzz3GgCXNRqr**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Oct-20/274667-al-qaeda-attacks-kill-20-yemen-shiite-rebels.ashx#axzz3GgCXNRqr)

**Dozens of Houthis protest at Saudi embassy in Yemen**

Dozens of armed Yemeni Shi'ite Houthi demonstrators protested in front of the Saudi embassy in Sana’a on Saturday calling for the release of a prominent Shi'ite cleric who was sentenced to death by a Saudi court this week, a Reuters witness said. A Saudi judge sentenced to death on Wednesday Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr who had called for greater rights for the kingdom's Shi'ites.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.businessinsider.com/r-dozens-of-houthis-protest-at-saudi-embassy-in-yemen-2014-10**](http://www.businessinsider.com/r-dozens-of-houthis-protest-at-saudi-embassy-in-yemen-2014-10)

**Sanaa airport road reopened for first time in weeks**

The Yemeni Defense Ministry's website reported that "life has returned to normal" in northern Sanaa's Airport district after Houthis cleared the area of tents which they had set up by when their sit-in against the government of former prime minister Mohamed Basindawa kicked off in early September.

**AA - <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/406796--sanaa-airport-road-reopened-for-first-time-in-weeks>**

SA

**Afghanistan**

**4 police killed in Helmand suicide attack**

Four policemen were killed in a suicide car bombing targeting a security convoy in southern Helmand province on Saturday, an official said. A convoy of the Afghan National Army and Public Order Police came under attack in Nad Ali district at 1.00pm, the 215th Maiwand Corps deputy commander said. Gen. Farooq Parwani, citing initial reports, told Pajhwok Afghan News four policemen had been killed and two others wounded. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

**ABC -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/taliban-attack-kills-afghan-security-troops-26290783**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/taliban-attack-kills-afghan-security-troops-26290783)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistani soldier shot dead by Iranian border guards**

One Pakistani soldier was killed and three injured by Iranian border guards in south-western province of Balochistan, a security official said Saturday. The incident occurred on Friday after the Iranians resorted to "unprovoked firing" in Chaukab area of Kech district of Pakistan. An official of paramilitary Frontier Corps said the soldiers were pursuing suspects when they came under attack from Iranian forces. "It was a targeted attack on Pakistani forces and killed one soldier and injured three other," he said. Iran accuses anti-Shiite militants and ethnic Baloch separatist groups of frequently attacking its forces from Pakistan.

**DPA -** [**http://www.dpa-international.com/news/asia/pakistani-soldier-shot-dead-by-iranian-border-guards-a-43002604.html**](http://www.dpa-international.com/news/asia/pakistani-soldier-shot-dead-by-iranian-border-guards-a-43002604.html)

**NIH reports two new polio cases from Khyber Agency and South Waziristan**

According to the institute’s data, an 18-month-old girl was diagnosed with the virus in Sra Cheena village of Akka Khel in Bara tehsil, Khyber Agency. The toddler is said to be suffering from wild-type-1 polio as is another child from Ghawa Khawa village of Wana tehsil in South Waziristan. Both children had not received any dose of the vaccine as there had been no polio drives in their areas due to the adverse security situation.

**Tribune -** [**http://tribune.com.pk/story/777093/polio-count-hits-209-with-two-new-cases/**](http://tribune.com.pk/story/777093/polio-count-hits-209-with-two-new-cases/)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Nigeria and Senegal declared free from Ebola by WHO**

Nigeria has been declared officially free of Ebola after six weeks with no new cases, the WHO says. WHO Representative Rui Gama Vaz, speaking in the capital Abuja, said it was a "spectacular success story". Nigeria won praise for its swift response after a Liberian diplomat brought the disease there in July. The WHO officially declared Senegal Ebola-free on Friday.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29685127**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29685127)

**Cameroon**

**Cameroon kills 107 Boko Haram fighters accused of mass murder**

Cameroon says its army killed 107 Boko Haram fighters, while a police officer told AFP at least 30 civilians were murdered by the group before the ambush. The combat occurred Wednesday and Thursday after militants from the Nigeria-based Boko Haram drove into the border towns of Amchide and Limani, Cameroon's defence ministry said in a statement read on state radio.

**Telegraph - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/nigeria/11171197/Nigerias-missing-schoolgirls-to-be-released-after-ceasefire-deal.html>**

**DR Congo**

**Women, children killed in new attack**

Twenty-two people, most of them women and children, have been hacked and clubbed to death in the east of the DR Congo, just days after a similar massacre, a government official said on 18 October. The attack on 17 October evening in the town of Eringeti, in North Kivu, left 10 women, eight children and four men dead, a local government official reported. The attack occurred some 50 km from the town of Beni, where 26 people were slaughtered with machetes on 16 October, raising doubts about government claims that the Ugandan fighters had been defeated.

**AFP -** [**http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-women-children-killed-in-new-dr-congo-attack-official-2014-10**](http://www.businessinsider.com/afp-women-children-killed-in-new-dr-congo-attack-official-2014-10)

**Gunmen free hundreds of prisoners in the east**

Heavily armed gunmen freed some 300 inmates from a prison in eastern Congo on 18 October, the provincial minister of justice said, amid fears over deteriorating security in the region. The provincial minister of justice said the attackers easily overpowered the security guards, freeing all the prisoners from the central prison of Butembo, in North Kivu province. By 19 October evening, authorities had recaptured about 30 of the fugitives, he added. He said that highway bandits were the most likely culprits in the prison break given that group’s strong representation among the prison population.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/19/us-congodemocratic-prison-idUSKCN0I80TT20141019**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/19/us-congodemocratic-prison-idUSKCN0I80TT20141019)

**UN rights chief condemns government's decision to expel envoy**

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, said on 19 October that he “regrets and condemns” the decision of the Government of the DR Congo to order his top official in the country to leave within 48 hours, and the serious intimidation aimed at other human rights staff in there. “Not only has my highly experienced and respected representative in DRC, Scott Campbell, been told to leave, but two other staff working in his team have been seriously threatened in recent days. This is unacceptable,” declared Mr. Zeid in a press release.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49116#.VEQ492jD\_ct**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49116#.VEQ492jD_ct)

**Mali**

**UN urges Mali peace accord at Algiers talks**

The United Nations peacekeeping chief on Saturday urged the Malian government to show a strong signal of its commitment to peace as negotiations with rebels restarted. “Mali’s government should send a strong signal of its commitment to achieve peace,” Ladsous said at the start of the talks. Clashes between armed groups and pro-government militias killed at least six people in northern Mali in recent days, Tuareg rebels said on Friday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/18/us-mali-talks-idUSKCN0I70PU20141018**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/18/us-mali-talks-idUSKCN0I70PU20141018)

**Nigeria**

**Nigerians doubtful of girls' release after Boko Haram 'truce' breached**

A wave of violence hours after Nigeria's government announced a truce with Boko Haram raised doubt on Sunday about whether more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by the Islamist militants will really be released, deflating the new hopes of their parents. Nigeria's armed forces chief Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh announced the ceasefire on Friday to enable the release of the girls, who were abducted from the remote northeastern village of Chibok in April. But Boko Haram has not confirmed the truce and there have been at least five attacks since - blamed by security sources on the insurgents - that have killed dozens. Talks were scheduled to continue in neighboring Chad on Monday.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigerians-doubtful-girls-release-boko-haram-truce-breached-130546315.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigerians-doubtful-girls-release-boko-haram-truce-breached-130546315.html)

**Suspected Boko Haram militants attack two villages after ceasefire**

Suspected Boko Haram members sprayed two villages in north-eastern Nigeria with gunfire at the weekend, hours after a ceasefire between the Islamist extremist group and the government was announced, residents and a military official said. About 20 Boko Haram fighters drove into Maikadiri in northern Borno State on trucks Friday night and began "shooting into residents' homes," said the military official who requested anonymity.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/18/us-nigeria-girls-idUSKCN0I709520141018**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/18/us-nigeria-girls-idUSKCN0I709520141018)

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