**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief - Monday, 23 September 2013**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Across Regions** | Asian, Pacific countries adopt agreement on reproductive health at UN conference |
|  |  | UNHCR seeking additional $21.4 million for DRC refugees in Uganda |
|  |  | More than 400 Syrian refugees reach Italy by sea, one dies |
| CEECIS | **Russia** | Suicide bomber in North Caucasus kills two, wounds 20 |
| EAPR | **Across EAPR** | Typhoon blows into China, kills 33 people in Asia |
|  | **Cambodia** | Parliament meets amid boycott |
|  | **Philippines** | Landslides kill 20 in northwest |
|  |  | Leaders says armed challenge over soon |
|  | **Timor Leste** | Authorities ban martial arts schools amid killings |
| ESAR | **Kenya** | 69 dead, 63 missing in Nairobi attack: Red Cross |
|  |  | Ban strongly condemns 'totally reprehensible' terrorist act in Nairobi - UNICEF mention |
|  |  | War crimes trial of VP adjourned over hostage crisis |
|  | **Somalia** | Two killed in Mogadishu grenade explosion |
| MENA | **Across MENA** | Over 4,100 Syrian children cross borders without parents or adults - UNICEF mention |
|  | **Iraq** | Assault on funeral; other attacks kill 96 people |
|  | **Lebanon** | Syria war, refugees to cost Lebanon $7.5 billion |
|  | **State of Palestine** | Israeli soldier seriously wounded in West Bank shooting |
|  | **Syria** | Opposition group at UN for General Assembly |
|  |  | Al Qaeda-linked fighters killed in clash with rebels |
|  |  | Assad says 'terrorists' obey foreign states: CCTV |
|  |  | Army kills 15 people in Sunni village |
|  | **Yemen** | Eight killed in clashes |
| ROSA | **Afghanistan** | 3 American troops killed in Afghan insider attack |
|  |  | Taliban shoot dead Afghan intelligence official |
|  | **Bangladesh** | Violence continues over pay hikes |
|  | **Pakistan** | Death toll from church blasts rises to 81 |
|  |  | Pakistani Christians protest deadly church bombing |
|  |  | Bomb kills five in southwest |
|  | **Sri Lanka** | Tamils vote after decades of war |
| TACR | **Mexico** | Country looks to rebuild from deadly, costly twin storms |
| WCAR | **CAR** | Population caught up in armed violence |
|  |  | Fresh violence in the north fuels more displacement and fear - UNICEF mention |
|  | **DR Congo** | Army retakes four towns from Rwandan rebels |
|  |  | Little respite for displaced in Ituri District |
|  | **Mali** | New president vows to better equip army after 2012 mutiny |
|  | **Nigeria** | This week’s death toll in northeast attack up to at least 142 |

GENERAL

**Across Regions  
Asian, Pacific countries adopt agreement on reproductive health at UN conference**Gender equality and reproductive health are indispensable to sustainable development, and must be a key part of the post-2015 development agenda, participants said at a UN-organized regional conference in Thailand. After days of intense discussions, nearly 500 delegates, including ministers and senior officials from 47 countries, adopted a comprehensive Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. “Addressing one of the most important parts of our unfinished business, it affirms the importance of non-discrimination, of ending violence against women and girls, and of universal sexual and reproductive health, services, and rights,” UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Noeleen Heyzer [said](http://www.unescap.org/news/asian-and-pacific-countries-adopt-ground-breaking-agenda-population-development-and-rights). She also noted that the document affirms the importance of national laws and policies which respect and protect the reproductive rights of every person, and “enables all people to exercise them without discrimination on any grounds.”   
**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45915&Cr=reproductive&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45915&Cr=reproductive&Cr1)

**UNHCR seeking additional $21.4 million for DRC refugees in Uganda**In the Great Lakes region of Africa, UNHCR is urgently seeking an extra US $21.4 million for our underfunded operations in Uganda for refugees who have fled from the eastern DRC. The amount covers needs until the end of the year and has been largely revised to reflect the influx into Uganda’s Bundibugyo district of tens and thousands of refugees from the Kamango area of DRC’s North Kivu province since July. Including this additional amount, UNHCR is seeking a total of US$ 43.7 million to help Congolese refugees who have arrived in Uganda to escape violence in North Kivu province since early 2012. At the moment this $43.7 million programme is only 28% funded. There are currently an estimated 2.6 million IPDs in the DRC, while more than 290,000 refugees have fled the country since the start of last year.   
**UNHCR - <http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/unhcr-seeking-additional-214-million-drc-refugees-uganda>  
  
More than 400 Syrian refugees reach Italy by sea, one dies**More than 400 refugees who said they were fleeing the Syrian civil war were intercepted near Sicily in the past 14 hours, and one 22-year-old woman died during the passage, Italy's coast guard reported. A first boat carrying 299 people, more than half of them women and children, was escorted to the port of Syracuse, Sicily. The people on the boat said they had left from Egypt about a week ago. Another boat was located overnight carrying 124 others, who also said they were Syrian refugees.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130921111037-auke0/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130921111037-auke0/)

CEECIS

**Russia**

**Suicide bomber in North Caucasus kills two, wounds 20**   
A suicide bomber killed two and wounded around 20 people outside a police station in Russia's North Caucasus region of Dagestan, the regional Interior Ministry press service told Interfax news agency. The national anti-terrorism agency confirmed the bombing and said law enforcement agencies were being sent to the site. It gave no further details.   
**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/23/uk-russia-caucasus-bombing-idUKBRE98M06F20130923**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/23/uk-russia-caucasus-bombing-idUKBRE98M06F20130923)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Typhoon blows into China, kills 33 people in Asia**A powerful typhoon that slammed into southern China with winds that blew cars off the road has caused more deaths, bringing the toll in Asia to at least 33 on Monday. Typhoon Usagi, which was the season's strongest storm at its peak, forced hundreds of flight cancellations and shut down shipping and train lines before weakening to a tropical depression over the southern Chinese province of Guangdong on Monday. China said 25 deaths occurred in Guangdong, where the typhoon made landfall late Sunday near Shanwei with record sustained winds for the city of 175km per hour. On Saturday the storm had been a super typhoon when it passed between Taiwan and the Philippines, sparing both of them the brunt of the winds. However, Philippine officials said eight people were dead from drowning and landslides, and Taiwan authorities reported nine people hurt by falling trees. At least 13 of the 25 victims in China were killed in worst-hit Shanwei city, Xinhua said. China's National Meterological Center said the typhoon would continue to weaken as it moves northwest and bring heavy rains later Monday and overnight to five of China’s southern provinces.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/typhoon-veers-hong-kong-hits-southern-china-20333684**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/typhoon-veers-hong-kong-hits-southern-china-20333684) **Cambodia  
Parliament meets amid boycott**Cambodia's parliament convened on Monday despite a boycott by the opposition, as the country is gripped by political crisis following disputed July elections that led to mass protests and violence. King Norodom Sihamoni opened the session, the first since the July polls won by incumbent Hun Sen, and urged the country to "stand united", as parliament was surrounded by heavy security. Cambodia's long-ruling PM, Hun Sen, is likely to be sworn in for another five-year term on Tuesday. No opposition MPs were present at the meeting after vowing a boycott over their demands for an independent investigation into the election.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/09/201392324019463757.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/09/201392324019463757.html)

**Philippines**

**Landslides kill 20 in northwest**

Torrential monsoon rains hit the northwestern Philippines on Monday, triggering landslides and killing 20 people in areas already weakened by a powerful typhoon, and raising the death toll to 47 from storms across Asia. Philippine officials said soldiers and villagers were also searching for at least seven people missing in mountainside villages hit by the landslides Monday in the province of Zambales. The other deaths came when two people drowned when a passenger boat capsized in northeastern Aurora province in the Philippines.

**AP -** [**http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Landslides-kill-20-in-northwest-Philippines-4835632.php**](http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Landslides-kill-20-in-northwest-Philippines-4835632.php)

**Leaders says armed challenge over soon**

The Philippine President flew out of Zamboanga where troops are fighting the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels, saying he expects the deadly battles to be over soon. The President also vowed to bring criminal charges against MNLF founder Nur Misuari, accused of being behind the rebel incursion. About 200 MNLF rebels entered Zamboanga on 9 September in the most serious armed challenge to the Philippine government in recent years. They took over several coastal districts, burning thousands of homes and taking scores of civilians hostage, in protest at an impending peace deal with a rival rebel group. A military spokesperson reported that about 4,500 soldiers remained in the city to clear it of guerrillas after street battles that left hundreds dead or injured. More than 10,000 houses were set on fire and 111,000 civilian residents fled the street battles, according to the civil defence office in Manila. The military said there are now just several dozen fighters left, holding at least 20 hostages in one neighbourhood of dense clusters of homes.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/philippine-leaders-says/822698.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/philippine-leaders-says/822698.html)

**Timor Leste**

**Authorities ban martial arts schools amid killings**   
Timor Leste police say there will be zero tolerance against those who continue to practice martial arts after the government banned all clubs following deadly gang violence. Armando Monteiro, National Police detective chief, says at least 12 East Timorese have been killed and more than 200 injured in the past two years as a result of fighting between rival clubs. PM Xanana Gusmao issued a resolution outlawing the popular clubs two months ago. Martial arts clubs have a long history in East Timor, with many students fighting against Indonesia's military occupation. Active clandestine members also supported guerrilla fighters and some made significant contributions toward winning the country's independence in 2002.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/east-timor-bans-martial-arts-schools-amid-killings-20340072**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/east-timor-bans-martial-arts-schools-amid-killings-20340072)

ESAR

**Kenya**

**69 dead, 63 missing in Nairobi attack: Red Cross**   
At least 69 people are confirmed to have been killed and 63 more recorded missing in an ongoing Nairobi shopping mall siege, Kenya Red Cross said Monday. The 63 recorded missing are thought to include both hostages still being held by al-Shabaab fighting Kenyan troops inside the complex, as well as those possibly killed in the three-day-long siege. Others may be hiding in the sprawling centre. As the stand-off entered its third day, sustained bursts of rapid gunfire erupted at dawn and lasted 15 minutes. Al-Shabaab on Monday threatened to kill hostages they are holding as Kenyan troops move to end their siege.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/23/6-dead-63-missing-in-nairobi-attack-red-cross/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/23/6-dead-63-missing-in-nairobi-attack-red-cross/)

**Al Jazeera - <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/2013921174856564470.html>**

**Ban strongly condemns 'totally reprehensible' terrorist act in Nairobi - UNICEF mention**  
UNSG Ban Ki-moon condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack at a shopping mall in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and urged the perpetrators to be brought to justice as soon as possible. In a televised statement from the UN Headquarters in New York, Mr. Ban said the premeditated act targeting defenseless civilians is “totally reprehensible.” The deceased include a retired staff member of UNICEF, Mr. Ban noted. In a statement last night, the UN Security Council also strongly condemned the attack and reiterated their determination to combat all forms of terrorism in accordance with their responsibilities under the UN Charter.  
**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45914&Cr=Kenya&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45914&Cr=Kenya&Cr1)

**War crimes trial of VP adjourned over hostage crisis**   
Judges at the ICC on Monday adjourned the trial of Kenyan VP William Ruto for a week to allow him to return home and deal with the hostage crisis at a Nairobi mall that has left at least 68 people dead. Ruto and Kenyan president, Uhuru Kenyatta, face charges of crimes against humanity in relation to their role in coordinating a wave of violence that swept Kenya in the aftermath of the country's contested 2007 elections. The court's unusually swift decision was taken during an emergency session after prosecutors said they had no objection to a short delay in proceedings, and a representative for the witnesses broke down in tears in the courtroom, saying Ruto should be allowed to attend to the urgent matter.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/23/us-kenya-attack-icc-idUSBRE98M07I20130923**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/23/us-kenya-attack-icc-idUSBRE98M07I20130923)

**Somalia**

**Two killed in Mogadishu grenade explosion**

At least two people were reportedly killed and four others including Yemenis were wounded in a Mogadishu grenade blast on Saturday, Garowe Online reports. Witnesses said unidentified men threw hand grenade at money exchange center in Mogadishu’s Bakara market. Nobody claimed the responsibility for the attack but the Somali Federal Government officials condemned Al-shabaab for the grenade explosion.

**Garowe Online -** [**http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia\_27/Somalia\_Two\_killed\_in\_Mogadishu\_Grenade\_Explosion.shtml**](http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Two_killed_in_Mogadishu_Grenade_Explosion.shtml)

MENA

**Across MENA  
Over 4,100 Syrian children cross borders without parents or adults - UNICEF mention**

More than 4,000 Syrian children have crossed the border into neighbouring countries without parents or adult relatives, according to UNICEF. The agency says the figure only includes children that have been identified and registered and the real numbers "are evidently higher." UNICEF’s spokesperson says each of the Syrian children arriving in neighbouring countries has witnessed or been a victim of horrific levels of violence and are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2013/09/over-4100-syrian-children-cross-borders-without-parents-or-adults/**](http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2013/09/over-4100-syrian-children-cross-borders-without-parents-or-adults/)

**Iraq**

**Assault on funeral; other attacks kill 96 people**

Two suicide bombers, one in an explosives-laden car and the other on foot, struck a cluster of funeral tents packed with mourning families in a Shiite neighborhood in Baghdad, the deadliest in a string of attacks around Iraq that killed at least 96 people. The attack on the funeral was one of the largest single terrorist assaults on civilians in Iraq in recent years. It happened shortly before sunset in the densely populated Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City in northeastern Baghdad.

**AP -** [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=224704101**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=224704101)

**Lebanon**

**Syria war, refugees to cost Lebanon $7.5 billion**

Syria's conflict will cost Lebanon $7.5 billion in cumulative economic losses by the end of 2014, the World Bank has said in a report prepared for an aid meeting at the UN. A summary of the report estimates that the war and resulting wave of refugees into Lebanon will cut real GDP growth by 2.85% a year between 2012 to 2014, double unemployment to above 20% and widen the deeply indebted nation's deficit by $2.6 billion. US ambassador to Lebanon, David Hale said on Thursday the bank's assessment underscored just how serious a challenge Lebanon faces, and the importance of dealing with it "not only for humanitarian reasons, but for Lebanon's very stability".  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130919163233-gvq8q/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130919163233-gvq8q/?source=hptop)

**State of Palestine  
Israeli soldier killed in West Bank shooting**

An Israeli soldier was shot on 22 September in the West Bank city of Hebron, a hotbed of tensions where some 500 settler families live among 100,000 Palestinians. He was the second Israeli serviceman killed since Friday by suspected Palestinian gunmen as tensions rise in the occupied territory despite a resumption of stalled US-brokered peace talks in July. On 21 September, Israeli authorities said a soldier had been killed by a Palestinian who had lured him to his hometown in the West Bank. And a week ago a Palestinian militant was killed in a confrontation with Israeli forces, the fourth Palestinian fatality since July.   
**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/22/uk-israel-palestinians-idUKBRE98L0FO20130922**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/09/22/uk-israel-palestinians-idUKBRE98L0FO20130922)

**Syria**

**Opposition group at UN for General Assembly**

A delegation from the Syrian opposition National Coalition has arrived in New York ahead of the UN General Assembly, the group reported. Delegates include the Coalition's president Ahmad Jarba, as well as prominent members Michel Kilo and Burhan Ghalioun. A spokeswoman for the Coalition declined to give details of the schedule for the trip, which lasts until 1 October, but said it would include meetings with international representatives.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130922/syrian-opposition-group-at-un-general-assembly**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130922/syrian-opposition-group-at-un-general-assembly)

**Al Qaeda-linked fighters killed in clash with rebels**   
A Libyan commander and a dozen other fighters from al Qaeda's Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have been killed in clashes with rival rebel forces in northern Syria, a monitoring group said, in the latest spate of internecine rebel violence. Clashes pitting the al Qaeda-linked ISIL and Nusra Front brigades against less effective but more moderate rebel forces have been intensifying recently, especially in opposition-held territory along Syria's northern and eastern borders. The infighting has undermined the rebel military campaign against President Bashar al-Assad. The growing influence of radical Islamist fighters and the disarray of rebel forces have also made Western powers wary of intervening directly in the civil war.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/23/us-syria-crisis-rebels-idUSBRE98M08V20130923**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/23/us-syria-crisis-rebels-idUSBRE98M08V20130923)

**Assad says 'terrorists' obey foreign states: CCTV**   
Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accused foreign nations of giving orders to "terrorists" battling his government's forces in an interview with China's state CCTV broadcast Monday. Assad told CCTV Damascus would carry out its commitments, but warned that militants obeying outside powers might try to make it seem otherwise. "We know that those terrorists follow the orders of other countries," he said, in an online video of the interview. "And these countries might incite the terrorists to block the inspectors from arriving, in order to blame the Syrian government for obstructing the implementation of the agreement." Under the plan, a tentative deadline of last Saturday was set for a full accounting of Syria's chemical arsenal, which is to be destroyed by mid-2014. The Hague-based Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is overseeing the process, said Saturday it had received a complete inventory from Syria and was scrutinising the data.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130923/syrias-assad-says-terrorists-obey-foreign-states**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130923/syrias-assad-says-terrorists-obey-foreign-states)

**Army kills 15 people in Sunni village**

Syrian forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad killed at least 15 people overnight in a Sunni Muslim village north-west of the city of Hama. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a woman and two children were among those killed in the attack in the village of Sheikh Hadid by soldiers and pro-Assad militia. The group said the killings followed attacks by rebels on military checkpoints in the area over the previous two days. It said 26 people (16 soldiers and 10 members of the pro-Assad National Defence Force) were killed when rebels attacked a nearby checkpoint.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130921103535-46e6g/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130921103535-46e6g/)

**Yemen**

**Eight killed in clashes**Eight tribesmen and Al-Qaeda militants were killed in clashes in Obadiah Valley in the northeast Maarib province on Sunday. Yemeni media sources said the clashes erupted when Al-Qaeda militants opened fire on the tribesmen. Maarib province is considered one of the Al-Qaeda active areas in the country.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-22/232154-yemen-clash-with-qaeda-kills-8-tribal-source.ashx#axzz2fcVkJfH6**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Sep-22/232154-yemen-clash-with-qaeda-kills-8-tribal-source.ashx#axzz2fcVkJfH6)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**3 American troops killed in Afghan insider attack**

An Afghan wearing a security forces uniform turned his weapon against US troops Saturday, killing three in eastern Afghanistan, officials said, in another apparent attack by a member of the Afghan forces against their international allies. The shooting took place in Gardez, capital of eastern Paktia province, Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, said. The area, near the border with Pakistan, has been a front line in fighting with the Taliban and other militants. The attack took place inside a base of the Afghan army in the city, according to a security official in Gardez.

**AP -** [**http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20130921-nato-3-american-troops-killed-in-afghan-insider-attack.ece**](http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20130921-nato-3-american-troops-killed-in-afghan-insider-attack.ece)

**Taliban shoot dead Afghan intelligence official**   
An intelligence official was gunned down by Taliban militants Monday in northern Afghanistan, the second such attack in less than a week. "Ghulam Hussain, chief of the National Directorate of Security department for Chardara district, heading towards his office this morning, was shot dead in a Taliban ambush," said a police official for Kunduz province. On Wednesday, Amanullah Aman, head of the Election Commission for Kunduz province was killed in a similar attack. Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. In a separate incident, the NATO-led international coalition said two of its soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb attack on Sunday in the eastern part of the country.   
**VoR -** [**http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/156610/taliban-shoot-dead-afghan-intelligence-official.html**](http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/156610/taliban-shoot-dead-afghan-intelligence-official.html)

**Bangladesh**

**Violence continues over pay hikes**

Police have fired rubber bullets and tear gas in the third day of clashes with thousands of garment workers demanding better minimum wages amid escalating tension over the country’s main export. Police say Monday’s violence mainly took place in the Gazipur and Savar Industrial zones, just outside the capital of Dhaka. The police chief for the Gazipur area, Abdul Baten, says scores have been injured. More than 100 factories were closed, he said.

**AP -** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/23/3645140/violence-continues-over-pay-hikes.html**](http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/23/3645140/violence-continues-over-pay-hikes.html)

**Pakistan**

**Death toll from church blasts rises to 81**  
A Pakistan police official says the death toll from a church bombing has risen to 81 as angry Christians protested the deadliest attack ever in Pakistan against members of their faith. Police official Noor Khan says the death toll from Sunday's bombing in the northwestern city of Peshawar rose overnight to 81, after three more of the wounded died. A pair of suicide bombers blew themselves up amid hundreds of worshippers. A wing of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing and said they would continue to target non-Muslims until the US stops drone attacks in the remote tribal region.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/death-toll-pakistan-church-blasts-rises-81-20339947**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/death-toll-pakistan-church-blasts-rises-81-20339947)

**Pakistani Christians protest deadly church bombing**   
Angry Pakistani Christians on Monday denounced the deadliest attack ever in this country against members of their faith from church bombings over the weekend. Angry Christians blocked roads around the country to protest the bombings. On one of the main roads coming into the capital of Islamabad, demonstrators burned tires and demanded government protection for the members of the Christian minority. Missionary schools around the country would be closed for three days, said Christian leader Nasir Gill. Churches and other places important to the Christian community in Peshawar have been given extra security, said Khan, the police official. Many churches, as well as mosques and other religious institutions, already receive some type of police protection although many Christians say that is too little.   
**AP -** [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=225257201**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=225257201)

**Bomb kills five in southwest**A bomb targeting police killed at least five people and wounded five others in Pakistan's restive southwest on Monday, police said. The attack was staged in Pishin district, 40km north of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province which is racked by a separatist insurgency and violence. "The bomb was planted underneath the police van, which exploded while the officials were performing routine checks, killing five people including three policemen and two civilians," district police chief Mehboob Rasheed told AFP. He said the blast also wounded five people including passengers of a minibus.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/bomb-kills-five-in-southwest-pakistan-police-1.361686**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/bomb-kills-five-in-southwest-pakistan-police-1.361686)

**Sri Lanka**

**Tamils vote after decades of war**

Sri Lanka's minority Tamils go to the polls Saturday to elect what they hope is a shot at self-rule after decades of ethnic bloodshed that claimed over 100,000 lives. Tamils in the country's battle-scarred northern province are voting for the first time to elect a semi-autonomous council, in an election called amid international pressure on the Sinhalese-dominated government to share power with the main ethnic minority.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/20/sri-lanka-tamils-vote-after-decades-war/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/20/sri-lanka-tamils-vote-after-decades-war/)

TACR

**Mexico**

**Country looks to rebuild from deadly, costly twin storms**

Mexico looked to the task of rebuilding after a rare double onslaught of storms, with at least 170 people feared dead in the path of destruction. The death toll in the tragedy soared, with the Mexican President reporting another 68 people were feared dead in a landslide in the village of La Pintada in Guerrero state. An earlier count put the number of dead at 101. An estimated 200,000 people were left homeless and nearly 60,000 were evacuated because of the flooding and landslides in the wake of the storms, Manuel on the west coast and Ingrid from the east. Early official estimates are that the storms damaged 1.5 million homes in 22 states, along with 72 roads or highways sustaining damages as well.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130921/mexico-looks-rebuild-deadly-costly-twin-storms-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130921/mexico-looks-rebuild-deadly-costly-twin-storms-0)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Population caught up in armed violence**

The deteriorating situation in the CAR and the humanitarian consequences for the population are deeply troubling. The current upsurge in fighting is the deadliest the country has experienced since March. "Civilians are the primary victims of the violence," reported the head of a team of staff members from the ICRC that managed to reach the city of Bouca. Entire neighbourhoods have been deserted in the city of more than 20,000 people. Most health-care centres are closed and people are almost entirely dependent on humanitarian aid. In some areas the violence has made it difficult to reach the victims. Clashes on the road to Bossangoa delayed the arrival of ICRC staff for several days.

**ICRC -** [**http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2013/09-19-central-african-republic-increase-violence.htm**](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2013/09-19-central-african-republic-increase-violence.htm)

**Fresh violence in the north fuels more displacement and fear - UNICEF mention**

Heavy clashes were reported between unidentified armed groups in and around the towns of Bossembele and Bossangoa, 150km and 300km northwest of Bangui respectively. As of now fighting appears to have subsided in the area, but the situation remains very tense. A UNHCR team arrived in Bossangoa as part of an inter-agency mission with OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and several NGOs to assess the extent of the displacement as well as the humanitarian needs of the affected populations in the region. People they met spoke of multiple abuses by both sides in the conflict, including murder, rape, and torture. Further north at Paoua in Ouham-Pendé prefecture, UNHCR staff on the ground saw new displacement and heard further accounts of human rights violations. People were fleeing from a nearby village (Benamkouna) following rumours of a retaliatory attack over the killing of a local man. Colleagues reported that people are also living in fear in Paoua where last week the town emptied after rumors of an attack.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/523c212c9.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/523c212c9.html)

**DR Congo**

**Army retakes four towns from Rwandan rebels**

DRC reported that it had retaken control of four towns in its restive eastern province which had been held by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels. UN-sponsored Radio Okapi said the villages of Lusuli, Vuvati, Buhenge and Kataro had been retaken "progressively and without combat" as the rebels had already left the area. The announcement by the DRC government that it has retaken the villages comes as negotiations are under way in Kampala, Uganda between Kinshasa and M23 Tutsi rebels, who were integrated in the army in 2009 but mutinied again last year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gDxDWMZhhAsgzhyFknPzOM455kjw?docId=CNG.f57ee7edff04ff99c36e2023a3fd2ec9.1d1&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gDxDWMZhhAsgzhyFknPzOM455kjw?docId=CNG.f57ee7edff04ff99c36e2023a3fd2ec9.1d1&hl=en)

**Little respite for displaced in Ituri District**

Over the course of three weeks, clashes between government forces and an armed group in northeast DRC displaced so many civilians that the population of one village, Gety, increased nine-fold, from 5,000 to 45,000. In all, there are around 100,000 people displaced in the south of Ituri District, part of Orientale Province. The most recent clashes, which involved heavy machine guns, mortars and rocket launchers, took place over the weekend of 14-15 September.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98797/little-respite-for-displaced-in-drc-s-ituri-district**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98797/little-respite-for-displaced-in-drc-s-ituri-district)

**Mali**

**New president vows to better equip army after 2012 mutiny**

Mali's new president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita vowed Sunday to go to all lengths to better equip the national army, in a bid to prevent a repeat of the 2012 mutiny over the lack of resources to fight rebels in the north. Faced with an intensifying rebellion from Tuaregs and allied Islamists, scores of Malian soldiers mutinied and launched a coup in March last year, angry at the low level of support they were getting from the state. The ensuing chaos in the capital gave the rebels the opportunity to snatch the vast desert north where they imposed a brutal form of sharia law, before military action launched by Paris in January ousted them.

**AFP -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/us/news/2013\_09\_23/Malis-new-president-vows-to-better-equip-army-after-2012-mutiny-9250/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/us/news/2013_09_23/Malis-new-president-vows-to-better-equip-army-after-2012-mutiny-9250/)

**Nigeria**

**This week’s death toll in northeast attack up to at least 142**

The death toll from an attack in northeastern Nigeria that saw insurgents dressed as soldiers set up checkpoints and gun down travelers on a highway has risen to at least 142, an official reported. The previous toll from the attack in the Benisheik area was 87. The motivation behind the assault was not immediately clear, but Boko Haram members have repeatedly carried out revenge attacks against residents over the emergence of vigilante groups that have formed to assist the military. Residents said the attackers singled out people from Borno, while letting people from other regions pass through checkpoints.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130922-death-toll-northeast-nigeria-attack-least-142**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130922-death-toll-northeast-nigeria-attack-least-142)

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