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GENERAL

**Across Regions  
Europe sees risk of polio re-introduction after Israeli findings**

Europe is at risk of a re-introduction of polio, more than a decade after the region was declared free of the disease, after the virus was found in sewage in Israel, according to a EU report. Poliovirus was identified in 91 sewage samples in Israel between February and August, and in the feces of 42 people in the same area, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control wrote in a report Wednesday. However, no cases of polio disease have been reported, the Stockholm-based ECDC said.

**Bloomberg -** [**http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-09-25/europe-sees-risk-of-polio-re-introduction-after-israeli-findings**](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-09-25/europe-sees-risk-of-polio-re-introduction-after-israeli-findings)

**US concern grows about al Qaeda ties to Kenya mall attack**

The militant attack on a Kenyan shopping mall increasingly appears to have been carried out by a dominant faction of al Shabaab, which has ideological and personal ties to al Qaeda, US officials said on Thursday. Based on initial reporting from the scene, which is still preliminary and uncertain, US officials believe al Shabaab likely spent a great deal of time planning and staging the siege in Nairobi that killed at least 72 people. Officials say, for example, the group may have moved a large machine gun and supplies of ammunition into place somewhere inside the mall days or weeks before the attack - perhaps by renting a shop or secretly using space provided by a sympathetic shop owner or employee.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130926231822-lc69c/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130926231822-lc69c/?source=hpbreaking)

**Violence against women-the missing millennium development goal**

Violence against women and girls is so pervasive that the next set of UN development objectives must include it as a priority when the MGDs expire in 2015, panelists at a UN ministerial meeting on gender violence and the post-2015 agenda said on Wednesday. “There is hardly anything more universal than gender-based violence,” said Heidi Hautala, minister for international development in Finland, which co-hosted the event with Liberia and UN Women, the global body’s agency for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130926123955-d58b7/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130926123955-d58b7/?source=hpeditorial)

CEECIS

**Bulgaria**

**Opposition blocks work of parliament**

Bulgaria's opposition GERB party boycotted parliament for a third day on Friday, blocking the work of the assembly because the ruling Socialists do not command the majority needed to open sessions. The boycott, intended to demonstrate what GERB said was the ruling coalition's inability to govern, meant the opposition effectively blocked its own no-confidence motion against the government which was scheduled for Friday. The standoff underlines a deepening political crisis which has deterred much-needed investment in the poorest EU country where the struggling economy is forecast to grow by 0.6% this year, compared with 0.8% in 2012. It is likely to add to public disenchantment with the political elite which has seen thousands of people stage anti-corruption protests in recent months.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927113154-rf4mf/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927113154-rf4mf/?source=hpbreaking)

**Russia/North Caucasus**

**Russia kills five suspected militants in North Caucasus**

Russian security forces killed five suspected militants in the North Caucasus province of Dagestan on Friday including one believed to be a local Islamist insurgent leader, law enforcement authorities said. Police and Federal Security Service officers surrounded a home in the Caspian Sea coastal city of Derbent and exchanged fire with gunmen inside the building, which caught fire in he battle, the National Anti-Terrorist Committee said. It said authorities believed one of the men killed was Sherif Akhmedov, a suspected leader of a militant group in the Derbent area who has been wanted since 2011 for alleged involvement in bombings and attacks on law enforcement officers.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927131435-9z5a4**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927131435-9z5a4)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Flood death toll rises to 20 people**

Floods have killed at least 20 Cambodian people, including 11 children in the last two weeks, a disaster control official reported. The chief of the Cabinet of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) said nearly 5,000 families have been evacuated to higher grounds, while over 20,000 houses have been inundated. Seven provinces being hit by floods are Stung Treng, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, and Preah Vihear, he said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/814189.shtml**](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/814189.shtml)

**Myanmar**

**Myanmar is told communal violence threatens reforms**

A group of Western and Asian governments are lauding Myanmar's progress toward democracy but warning outbreaks of communal violence could undermine the reforms. FM’s meeting Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly said in a statement that Myanmar urgently needs to address the political and economic grievances of the Rohingyas, including the question of their citizenship. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said there's much to be done to ensure accountability for the perpetrators.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/myanmar-told-communal-violence-threatens-reforms-20391376**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/myanmar-told-communal-violence-threatens-reforms-20391376)

**Philippines**

**Troops rescue last hostages, kill 15 rebels – army**

Philippine forces said on Friday they had rescued the last civilians held by Muslim rebels on a southern island after nearly three weeks of fighting that has raised doubts about government efforts to end decades-old insurgencies. Hundreds of members of a Muslim rebel faction, angered by a pact struck with the main Muslim rebel group, marched into Zamboanga City on 9 September. They took hundreds of hostages and began battling the security forces. About 200 people, including 166 rebels, have been killed and more than 100,000 residents of the port city on the main southern island of Mindanao were displaced. Fifteen members of the breakaway faction of the separatist Moro National liberation Front (MNLF) were killed in a Thursday night clash, an army spokesman said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927095819-qxao9/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927095819-qxao9/?source=hpbreaking)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Al Shabaab say new attacks coming as Kenya scours mall for dead**   
Somalia's Shebab on Friday threatened fresh attacks against Kenya, as police scoured the smoking rubble in Nairobi's Westgate mall devastated by their assault for bodies and clues. "The mesmeric performance by the Westgate Warriors was undoubtedly gripping, but despair not folks, that was just the premiere of Act 1," the group said in one of a string of messages posted on Twitter overnight. Kenya meanwhile entered its third and final day of official mourning, with flags at half mast across the country.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.modernghana.com/news/492851/1/shebab-say-new-attacks-coming-a.html**](http://www.modernghana.com/news/492851/1/shebab-say-new-attacks-coming-a.html)

MENA

**Iran**

**Iran proposes fully implementing nuclear pact within a year - US**

Iran proposed carrying out an agreement to address concerns about its nuclear program within a year at talks with major powers on Thursday, a senior US State Department official said. Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif met with his counterparts from Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US at the UN to discuss the nuclear issue and then stepped into a side room for one-one-one talks with US Secretary of State John Kerry.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927001326-eopum/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927001326-eopum/?source=hpbreaking)

**Iraq**

**Deadly blasts hit Baghdad markets**

At least 23 people have been killed in blasts targeting markets in Baghdad, officials say. Bombs in the Shia Sabaa al-Bour area, north of Baghdad, killed up to 16 people. More than 40 others were reportedly injured as the area was packed with shoppers. A blast in the Sunni Dora district, south of Baghdad, killed seven people.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24282758**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24282758)

**Sudan**

**Rights groups say 50 dead in fuel riots**Rights groups slammed Sudan Friday for killing protesters demonstrating against fuel subsidy cuts, saying 50 people were shot dead in two days in the country's worst riots since 1989. Activists called for the protests to continue and urged the security forces to side with the people. Activists expressed "deep concern" about reports of hundreds being detained and urged the authorities "to ensure that they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment."  
**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/rights-groups-50-dead-sudan-fuel-riots-071414093.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/rights-groups-50-dead-sudan-fuel-riots-071414093.html)

**Authorities cut internet for next 48 hours as fears mount of new post-Friday prayers protests**Fresh clashes broke out between Sudanese security forces and demonstrators in different parts of the capital Khartoum on Thursday night despite a relatively calm morning compared to the day before. Yesterday witnessed the fiercest protests by demonstrators who were angry about the government’s decision this week to implement new cuts on fuel subsidies causing the prices of gasoline and diesel to almost double. The protestors chanted slogans which included "The people want the fall of the regime!", "Freedom, Freedom!" On Thursday, Sudan TV announced that internet access will be cut off staring midnight and for the next 48 hours without saying why. But social media networks saw the circulation of calls for demonstrations following tomorrow’s Friday prayers.  
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48192**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48192)

**Syria**

**Extremists torch statues, crosses in churches**

Extremist fighters linked to Al-Qaeda set fire to statues and crosses inside churches in northern Syria and destroyed a cross on a church clock tower, the Syria Observatory for Human Rights reported. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters entered the Greek Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in the city of Raqa and torched the religious furnishings inside, the Observatory said. They did the same at the Armenian Catholic Church of the Martyrs, and also destroyed a cross atop its clock tower, replacing it with the ISIL flag, the Observatory said. Most of Raqa, located on the banks of the Euphrates River and capital of the province of the same name, fell to anti-regime fighters in March.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jgdSk\_csNdA4fD8hRbA0c\_ifMt4Q?docId=b3d42e3d-d892-4bee-b362-b9515d83dd79&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jgdSk_csNdA4fD8hRbA0c_ifMt4Q?docId=b3d42e3d-d892-4bee-b362-b9515d83dd79&hl=en)

**UN investigates 7 Syrian chemical cases, some after 21 Aug attack**

UN chemical weapons inspectors in Syria are investigating seven cases of alleged chemical or biological weapons use, including three incidents around Damascus after the 21 August attack which almost triggered US air strikes. The inspectors expect to finalise their work in Syria on Monday and issue a report by late October that will give more details of the 21 August incident which they have already said involved the use of sarin gas, a statement from the UN in Damascus said on Friday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927120430-yvenf/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927120430-yvenf/?source=hpbreaking)

**Tunisia**

**Government says it foiled plot to divide country into three emirates**

Tunisian authorities have dismantled a plot by extremist Salafis to slice up the country into three emirates, a top security official reported. Security forces that have been battling al-Qaeda-linked extremists also disrupted plots in recent weeks to assassinate political figures and carry out bombings in central Tunisia and near Tunis, the Interior Minister reported. Authorities, culling information from questioning of those suspects, now believe that about 30 alleged terrorists are currently holed up in the western mountains including the man suspected of killing an opposition legislator in February. Those in hiding are believed to be members of the banned al-Qaeda-linked extremist group Ansar al-Shariah.

**AP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/25/Tunisia-says-it-foiled-plot-to-divide-country-into-five-emirates-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/09/25/Tunisia-says-it-foiled-plot-to-divide-country-into-five-emirates-.html)

**Yemen**

**Twin blasts in Sanaa wound 20 people**

Two bombs exploded one after the other on a busy road in Sanaa wounding 20 people, the interior ministry said. The twin blasts were on Al-Rabat Street where the explosive devices had been hidden among piles of garbage. No casualties were reported in the first explosion, a ministry spokesman said, quoted by Saba state news agency. But as pedestrians gathered in the area a second device exploded, wounding 20 people, the official said. Another official reported earlier that 12 people were wounded in the blast, four of them seriously.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/international/twin-blasts-in-yemen-capital-wound-20-ministry/**](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/international/twin-blasts-in-yemen-capital-wound-20-ministry/)

ROSA

**India  
Thousands rescued in flood-hit west**  
India's overflowing Narmada River and allied rivulets have inundated Vadodara and Bharuch districts of the western Gujarat state. Thousands of locals have been rescued by authorities, many of whom have had their homes and business establishments destroyed and their farmlands washed away. "We [the local administration] have rescued and shifted 22,000 people to relief camps as heavy rains since the last three days have caused floods in Vadodara," Vinod Rao, Vadodara district collector, said on Wednesday. However, in pockets of south and western regions of the state, which had drought in the past, more intense rains have led to higher coverage this year for crops such as corn, pulses and oilseeds.  
**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/09/thousands-rescued-flood-hit-areas-india-20139269235335934.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/09/thousands-rescued-flood-hit-areas-india-20139269235335934.html)

**Maldives**

**Run-off vote to be held despite court delay**

The Maldives will go ahead with a presidential election run-off on Saturday, the election commissioner reported on 26 September, despite a decision by the Supreme Court to postpone the second round following a complaint of vote rigging. His comments followed mounting international pressure on the government to push ahead with a run-off, amid hopes that the vote could help end months of political turmoil in the country. The election commissioner said the Supreme Court had no right to override the constitution, which stipulates that a run-off vote must be held within three weeks of the first round. Soon after the announcement, police set up barricades near the election commission's headquarters, where the five-member committee held its meeting to decide on the run-off.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/maldives-election-idUSL5N0HM3VT20130926**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/maldives-election-idUSL5N0HM3VT20130926)

**Pakistan**

**Quake toll reaches 515 as insurgents hamper aid efforts**

The death toll from an earthquake in southwestern Pakistan has reached 515, a provincial official said Friday, as insurgents continue to hamper relief efforts. Babar Yaqoob, the Chief Secretary of Baluchistan, gave the updated death toll as he was touring the destroyed region of Awaran, where the earthquake struck on Tuesday. The area is also a stronghold of separatist Baluch insurgents, who have shot at helicopters carrying military officials in charge of responding to the disaster. On Wednesday, unknown persons opened fire on a team of doctors and paramedics attempting to reach the quake zone.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130927112824-zqbw5/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130927112824-zqbw5/?source=hpagehead)

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98837/security-fears-hold-back-relief-work-in-quake-hit-pakistan**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98837/security-fears-hold-back-relief-work-in-quake-hit-pakistan)

**Bus bomb kills at least 18**   
A powerful bomb tore through a bus carrying government workers in restive northwest Pakistan on Friday, killing at least 18 people, officials said. More than 40 others were wounded in the attack on the bus hired by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government to take staff home from work. The blast came on the edge of provincial capital Peshawar, which has long been a flashpoint for a local Taliban insurgency targeting government officials, security forces and ordinary civilians.   
**AFP -** [**http://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/19142920/pakistan-bus-bomb-kills-at-least-18/**](http://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/19142920/pakistan-bus-bomb-kills-at-least-18/)

LAC

**PM says UN has moral responsibility in cholera**

The UN has “a moral responsibility” in the deadly cholera outbreak that has killed more than 8,500 Haitians and sickened another 600,000-plus, the head of Haiti’s government said Thursday in his debut before the global body. With President Michel Martelly among a list of world leaders shirking off an appearance at this year’s UN General Assembly, PM Laurent Lamothe used his appearance in the global spotlight to call on the UN to do more to help Haiti eradicate what experts are calling the world’s worst cholera outbreak. “We would like to propose the establishment of a joint commission,” Lamothe said, “to study the ways and means of finding and definitively eradicating this illness in Haiti all together.” Lamothe’s criticism is the most public pronouncement by a Haitian official yet. UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said that the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is committed to helping the people of Haiti overcome the cholera epidemic. Last year, Ban launched a $2.2 billion, 10-year cholera eradication plan to help Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic fight cholera. Lamothe acknowledged the U.N’s commitment but said it “is far from being enough.”

**Miami Herald-** [**http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/26/v-print/3653278/haiti-pm-united-nations-has-moral.html**](http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/09/26/v-print/3653278/haiti-pm-united-nations-has-moral.html)

**Mexico**

**Fresh floods in hard-hit Acapulco**

Torrential rain has caused fresh floods in the Mexican beach resort Acapulco, less than two weeks after two storms killed 139 people. Authorities evacuated people from high-risk areas and closed schools, after flooding reached more than 1m (3ft). Acapulco was one of the areas worst affected by the bad weather, which left thousands of tourists stranded. The government issued renewed alerts for the rest of the state of Guerrero, as further heavy rain was expected. Officials say September, days before its end, is set to break rain records in Mexico by a large margin. Acapulco's international airport re-opened for commercial flights on Sunday, a week after it had to close due to power cuts and flooding. But on Thursday, one of the main access roads to the airport had to be closed, officials said. Authorities issued fresh rain alerts, as torrential rains led to evacuations in more than 20 districts.

**BBC-** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24292176**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24292176)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Humanitarian action urgently needed, stress UN and partners**

The UN and its partners called for urgent action to assist some 4.6 million people with humanitarian needs in the CAR. Participants at the meeting stressed that a significant increase in humanitarian funding was essential, and that a rapid improvement in security was a precondition for getting urgently-needed assistance to the worst-affected people. The recent fighting has further eroded even the most basic services in the country and exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation affecting the entire population. Currently, 1.6 million people are in need of assistance, including food, protection, health care, water, sanitation and shelter.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46018&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46018&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1)**=**

**Chad**

**UNICEF and its partners respond to a resurgence of malaria cases**

In response to a resurgence of suspected cases of malaria in several parts of Chad , UNICEF in collaboration with WHO, is implementing an integrated response to support efforts already made ​​by the Government in areas where the resurgence is highest. As of 22 September, more than 618,000 cases of suspected malaria with 1,678 malaria-related deaths were reported nationally as compared to 412,000 suspected cases with 870 malaria-related deaths during the same period in 2012. In response, UNICEF provided medicines and diagnostic tests to support rapid control and to help treat approximately 140,000 cases of malaria. An additional emergency government order of approximately 215,000 treatments is underway through UNICEF’s support.

**UNICEF -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/chad/unicef-and-its-partners-respond-resurgence-malaria-cases-chad**](http://reliefweb.int/report/chad/unicef-and-its-partners-respond-resurgence-malaria-cases-chad)

**DR Congo**

**At least two people dead as troops and rebels clash**

Fighting among rebels and government troops left at least two dead in eastern DRC, ending a short lull in violence as negotiations continue between the two sides. The clashes in the town of Kahunga, north of Goma, were the first since UN peacekeeping troops and government soldiers forced rebels from the M23 movement to retreat in August. Two rebel fighters were killed and a government soldier injured during a firefight that lasted just 20 minutes, reported a spokesperson of the UN brigade charged with "neutralising" the rebels. "The situation is calm once again," he said, an assertion backed up army and rebel sources.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iHOJTbErI73cPFzihtnBzgfMjjYA?docId=fe679375-6005-4484-af30-3f9e84ee6ad5&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iHOJTbErI73cPFzihtnBzgfMjjYA?docId=fe679375-6005-4484-af30-3f9e84ee6ad5&hl=en)

**UN officials cite progress in rule of law, but also continued rights abuses in the east**

Progress has been made in DRC in putting in place a legal regime to combat impunity for human rights violations, but the rights situation in the east of the country continues to deteriorate, according to a new UN report presented to the press in Kinshasa. The report, the latest on the rights situation in the country by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, welcomes the enactment of a law establishing a national human rights commission as well as the institution of proceedings against State agents accused of human rights violations. However, it also deplores the “significant deterioration” of the human rights situation in the east of the country, despite the Government’s efforts, with the majority of violations being committed by security and defence forces as well as by combatants of M23 and other armed groups.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45999&Cr=Democratic&Cr1=Congo.UkPfDmTbpq5**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45999&Cr=Democratic&Cr1=Congo.UkPfDmTbpq5)

**Guinea**

**70% of voter cards distributed for polls**

Guinea's election commission said that 70% of voter cards had been distributed and conditions required for its nationwide polls to be credible were being met. Guineans vote on Sunday in the first parliamentary elections in the nation in over a decade, after months of delays and a campaign plagued by deadly unrest. Five million voters will choose from some 1,700 candidates vying for 114 seats in a national assembly which will replace the transitional parliament that has been running the country since military rule came to an end in 2010.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130926/70-percent-voter-cards-distributed-guinea-polls**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130926/70-percent-voter-cards-distributed-guinea-polls)

**95 people killed in clashes**

A government spokesperson says recent clashes in Guinea's southeast forest region killed 95 and injured hundreds, a significant increase over numbers provided last week. He reported that the violence was partly due to the large flow of arms in the region, and he raised the possibility that former rebels from Liberia as well as fighters trained under a former Guinean junta leader were involved. Witnesses said the violence began in July in a village outside N'Zerekore when members of the Guerze ethnic group beat a young Konianke man to death after accusing him of stealing from a service station. Officials previously put the death toll at 54.

**AP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/95-killed-in-Guinea-clashes-20130724**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/95-killed-in-Guinea-clashes-20130724)

**UNICEF statement on the risks for children during election-related**

On the eve of the parliamentary elections in Guinea, UNICEF voices concern over the risks of the involvement of children in potentially violent street demonstrations. Participating in protests can be extremely dangerous for children; they may be injured or even killed. We urge parents and all political candidates to refrain from encouraging children from taking part in any political events that may put their lives at risk. Additionally, children should never be targeted during protests and demonstrations. Their safety and protection must be ensured at all times -regardless of any perceived political affiliation.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/4501\_7621.html**](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/4501_7621.html)

**Mali**

**President says Sahel needs rapid reaction force to fight militants**

Mali's newly elected President called for nations in the Sahara region to create a regional multilateral force that could intervene quickly to respond to the ongoing militant threat across the area. Attacks in Niger, growing instability in southern Libya and clashes between Tunisian government troops and Islamist militants have shown how al-Qaeda-linked rebels have taken advantage of a security vacuum in the region since French-led forces intervened in Mali earlier this year to oust them. "The situation in Mali has been stabilized, but that doesn't mean that it is in all of the Sahel," French FM Laurent Fabius told reporters. "While the terrorists in Mali have been neutralized, some have been able to escape elsewhere, so we need to be vigilant and need a regional approach." He added that his country would host African heads of state in Paris in December to come up with a common security plan.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/us-un-assembly-sahel-idUSBRE98P11920130926**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/us-un-assembly-sahel-idUSBRE98P11920130926)

**Tuareg separatist rebels pull out of peace deal**  
Tuareg separatists in Mali say they are suspending participation in a peace deal, accusing the government of not respecting the accord reached in June. Three Tuareg groups meeting in Burkina Faso called for an emergency meeting of all parties to the peace agreement. In a statement late Thursday, Mossa Ag Acharatoumane, a founding member of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) accused the Malian government of failing to live up to its promises made in the June agreement, signed in the capital of neighbouring Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou. "Everything that they promised us in the accord has not been respected," he told the Associated Press news agency.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24291987#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24291987)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram kill pastor, 2 children, says army**

Suspected Boko Haram militants on Thursday opened fire in a church in Nigeria’s restive northeast, killing the pastor and his two children before setting fire to the building and fleeing, the military said. Boko Haram, which has said it is fighting to create an Islamic state in mainly Muslim northern Nigeria, has repeatedly attacked churches in its four-year insurgency.

**AFP -** [**http://www.africanspotlight.com/2013/09/26/boko-haram-islamists-open-fire-in-church-kill-pastor-and-his-2-children/**](http://www.africanspotlight.com/2013/09/26/boko-haram-islamists-open-fire-in-church-kill-pastor-and-his-2-children/)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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