**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief -** **Tuesday, 25 June 2013**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENERAL | **Across Regions** | UNSC strengthens efforts to end impunity for conflict-related sexual violence |
|  | **Chad/Sudan** | Humanitarian conditions remain unacceptable for refugees and returnees in Tissi |
| CEE/CIS | **Turkey** | Police detain 20 demonstrators in raids |
| EAPR | **Across EAPR** | Websites in North and South Korea hacked on war anniversary |
|  | **Indonesia** | Indonesia sorry for haze as thousands sent to fight fires |
|  | **Laos** | Dengue death toll hits 44 in Laos |
| ESAR | **Angola** | Over 800 cases of Dengue recorded since March |
|  | **Mozambique** | Political talks resume despite attacks |
|  | **South Sudan** | HRW says army holds, beats civilians |
| MENA | **Egypt** | Amnesty says President must urgently tackle sect violence |
|  |  | Police arrest eight over Shi'ite killings: report |
|  | **Iraq** | Ten car bombs kill 39 in Iraqi capital |
|  |  | Suicide bombers target Iraqi Turkmen, killing eight |
|  | **Lebanon** | Bomb explodes in eastern Lebanon near border crossing with Syria |
|  | **Libya** | Gunmen kill six Libyan soldiers at checkpoint near Sirte |
|  | **State of Palestine** | Far-right Israelis stir tensions over Jerusalem holy site |
|  | **Sudan** | Vaccination campaign in rebel held areas should be under Govt. supervision- UNICEF mention |
|  | **Syria** | Syria battles rage in Damascus, Aleppo: NGO |
|  | **Tunisia** | Tunisian military chief of staff announces retirement |
|  | **Yemen** | UN-backed reconciliation talks takes on Southern issue |
| ROSA | **Afghanistan** | No word yet from Taliban on peace talks: US |
|  |  | Taliban gunmen attack Afghanistan presidential palace |
|  | **India** | 1,000 dead in floods, rebuilding to take years |
|  |  | Indian soldiers killed in Kashmir attack |
|  | **Nepal** | Most severe floods in 50 years |
|  | **Pakistan** | UNICEF receives €3M funds from ECHO to combat malnutrition |
| TACR | **Brazil** | Government sets $23B hike for transit after protests |
|  | **Ecuador** | President vows 'sovereign' decision on Snowden |
|  | **Haiti** | Country gets $35.5M grant to improve water services |
|  | **Peru** | Security forces remove explosive charges from pipeline in south |
| WCAR | **Across WCAR** | West Africa seeks anti-piracy force |
|  | **CAR** | Gold mine collapses, at least 37 dead |
|  | **Mali** | Full support needed for UN mission |
|  | **Nigeria** | Amnesty has credible reports of 4 hanged in Edo state |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**UNSC strengthens efforts to end impunity for conflict-related sexual violence**

The UNSC sent a strong signal to perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict that their crimes will not be tolerated, adopting a new resolution to strengthen efforts to end impunity for a scourge that affects not only large numbers of women and girls but also men and boys. In three previous resolutions – 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1960 (2010) – the Council affirmed that sexual violence, when committed systematically and used as a tool of war, is a fundamental threat to international peace and security, requiring an operational security and judicial response. During a debate on women and peace and security, the 15-member body unanimously adopted resolution 2106, by which it emphasized more consistent and rigorous investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes as a central aspect of deterrence, ultimately prevention.

**UN News -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45253&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=conflict#.UciuDPm1H47#**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45253&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=conflict#.UciuDPm1H47#)

**Chad/Sudan**

**Humanitarian conditions remain unacceptable for refugees and returnees in Tissi**

Tens of thousands of refugees and returnees in Chad who fled violent clashes in neighboring Darfur that began in early January are still desperately in need of clean water, proper shelter, and access to health care. “We remain concerned about those who are unable to reach the camps in Chad and are either exposed to ongoing violence or have no access to humanitarian assistance,” says Tom Roth, MSF operation manager in Chad. MSF is also concerned about deteriorating conditions for more than 22,000 Chadians who had previously fled to Darfur to escape violence in Chad and who qualify for only limited aid. The returnees and refugees are mostly female-headed households with large numbers of youths and children under the age of five, who are particularly vulnerable.

**MSF -** [**http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/article.cfm?id=6833&cat=field-news&ref=news-index#**](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/article.cfm?id=6833&cat=field-news&ref=news-index#)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Police detain 20 demonstrators in raids**

Turkey's state-run agency says police have raided homes in the capital Ankara, detaining at least 20 people involved in anti-government protests. The Anadolu Agency said Tuesday that police searched some 30 addresses and rounded up 20 people with alleged links to "terror" groups and suspected of "attacking police and the environment" during nearly three weeks of protests that swept Turkey. Late on Monday, thousands in Istanbul protested a court decision that released a police officer from custody pending trial for the killing of a demonstrator.

**AP -** [**http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\_23533141/report-police-detain-20-demonstrators-raids**](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23533141/report-police-detain-20-demonstrators-raids)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Websites in North and South Korea hacked on war anniversary**

Major government and media websites in South and North Korea were shut down for hours Tuesday on the 63rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War, and Seoul said its sites were hacked and alerted people to take security measures against cyberattacks. It was not immediately clear if the shutdown of North Korean websites, including those belong to Air Koryo and the Rodong Sinmun newspaper, was due to those sites being hacked. Rodong Sinmun, Uriminzokkiri and Naenara websites were operational a few hours later. South Korean National Intelligence Service officials said they were investigating what may have caused the shutdown of the North Korean websites, and North Korea didn’t make any immediate comment.

**AP -** [**http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1268547/websites-north-and-south-korea-hacked-war-anniversary**](http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1268547/websites-north-and-south-korea-hacked-war-anniversary)

**Indonesia**

**Indonesia sorry for haze as thousands sent to fight fires**

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has apologized to Singapore and Malaysia over fires that have cloaked the countries in thick haze, as thousands more emergency workers were deployed Tuesday, June 25, to tackle the blazes. Southeast Asia's worst smog crisis for years pushed haze levels in Singapore to a record high last week, with residential buildings and skyscrapers shrouded and daily life for millions in the city-state dramatically affected. The smog has drifted north and is now badly affecting Malaysia, while in a badly-hit province on Indonesia's Sumatra island -- where the fires are raging in peatland -- hundreds gathered to pray for rain.

**AFP -** [**http://www.rappler.com/world/32094-indonesian-yudhoyono-apologizes-over-haze#**](http://www.rappler.com/world/32094-indonesian-yudhoyono-apologizes-over-haze#)

**Laos**

**Dengue death toll hits 44 in Laos**

Dengue fever has claimed 44 lives so far this year in Laos, which is expecting one of its worst outbreaks of the mosquito-borne virus, news reports said Tuesday. Laos’ National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology recorded at least 11,260 dengue cases from January 1 to June 23, of whom 44 died, the Vientiane Times reported. The centre’s director, Phengta Vongphachanh, predicted that this year’s dengue outbreak would be worse than that of 2010, when almost 23,000 people were infected, and 46 people died. Phengta urged the public to use mosquito nets when taking daytime naps.

**DPA -** [**http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Dengue-death-toll-hits-44-in-Laos-30209034.html#**](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Dengue-death-toll-hits-44-in-Laos-30209034.html#)

ESAR

**Angola**

**Over 800 cases of Dengue recorded since March**

At least 834 cases of dengue were recorded in the country since the outbreak of the disease in March until 20 June, causing 10 deaths, Angop learnt on Monday in Luanda. Source from the Ministry of Health said to Angop that from this figure, 657 cases were confirmed in laboratory and 214 people were admitted in the hospital. Luanda leads the list with 831 cases, while the provinces of Malanje and Kwanza Sul recorded two and one case, respectively. To fight against this disease, the health authorities are capacity building the health professionals of the provinces of Malanje, Uíge, Lunda norte and Kuando Kubango.

**AllAfrica -** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201306242291.html#**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201306242291.html#)

**Mozambique**

**Political talks resume despite attacks**

A new round of talks opened on Monday between Mozambique's main opposition Renamo and government over a list of grievances raised by the ex-rebels. The negotiations resumed just three days after deadly attacks in central Mozambique that authorities suspect were carried out by Renamo members. Entering the talks, Renamo officials said last Friday's attacks, which killed at least two people, were not on the agenda. The attacks raised fears of heightening political tensions and unrest in the country where until 1992 Renamo waged a brutal 16-year civil war that claimed around one million lives.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/24/mozambique-political-talks-resume-despite-attacks/#ixzz2XALad2dK#**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/24/mozambique-political-talks-resume-despite-attacks/#ixzz2XALad2dK#)

**South Sudan**

**HRW says army holds, beats civilians**

South Sudan's army has detained some 130 civilians without charges in a central state since February, beating some of them severely, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Monday. Rights groups accuse South Sudan's army and security forces, a loose umbrella of former guerillas from decades of civil war with Khartoum, of committing abuses. HRW said the governor of Lakes state had ordered the army in February to detain 50 people each from two villages which had been locked in tribal fighting. The government, which could not be immediately reached for comment, regularly denies charges of human rights abuses.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/24/us-southsudan-army-idUSBRE95N15X20130624#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/24/us-southsudan-army-idUSBRE95N15X20130624#)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Amnesty says President must urgently tackle sect violence**

Egypt’s President Mohamed Morsi must urgently tackle the unprecedented level of sectarian violence against Shi’a Muslims and ensure they are protected from further attacks, Amnesty International said after four Shi’a men were killed in south Cairo during a violent attack on Sunday. “The Egyptian authorities must immediately order an independent and impartial investigation into the killing of the four men, and send a clear message that carrying out attacks and inciting violence against Shi’a Muslims will not be tolerated,” said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Amnesty International. “Investigations must look at why security forces yet again failed to stop the bloodshed, as well as whether advocacy of hatred and incitement to violence played a role.”

**Amnesty -** [**http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/egypt-president-morsi-must-send-clear-message-against-attacks-on-shi-a-muslims**](http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/egypt-president-morsi-must-send-clear-message-against-attacks-on-shi-a-muslims)

**Police arrest eight over Shi'ite killings: report**

Egyptian police have arrested eight people over the killing of five Shi'ite Muslims in a Cairo suburb, state media said on Tuesday, after footage of the attack spread on the Internet, heightening fears of sectarian violence. The lynching of the Shi'ites occurred in the tense run-up to the first anniversary of Mohamed Mursi's election as president on June 30, with the opposition promising mass protests against him and the army warning both sides it will step in if need be. The suspects are accused of killing the five, who had come to Cairo for a religious festival, and mutilating their bodies by dragging them through the streets.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-egypt-protests-shiites-idUSBRE95O0FD20130625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-egypt-protests-shiites-idUSBRE95O0FD20130625)

**Iraq**

**Ten car bombs kill 39 in Iraqi capital**

Ten car bombs exploded across the Iraqi capital on Monday, killing nearly 40 people in markets and garages on the evening of a Shi'ite Muslim celebration, police and medical sources said. Some of the attacks targeted districts where Shi'ites were commemorating the anniversary of the birth of a revered Imam, but there also were explosions in mixed neighborhoods and districts with a high population of Sunnis. The violence reinforced a growing trend since the start of the year, with more than 1,000 people killed in militant attacks in May alone, making it the deadliest month since the sectarian bloodletting of 2006-07.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-iraq-violence-baghdad-idUSBRE95N10020130625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-iraq-violence-baghdad-idUSBRE95N10020130625)

**Suicide bombers target Iraqi Turkmen, killing eight**

Two suicide bombers killed at least eight Iraqi Turkmen on Tuesday when they blew themselves up at a protest by members of the ethnic minority group, police said. The attackers walked into tents pitched by Turkmen protesters on the Baghdad - Kirkuk highway, near the town of Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of the Iraqi capital. The protesters complain that the government is failing to protect them.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE95O0I020130625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE95O0I020130625)

**Lebanon**

**Bomb explodes in eastern Lebanon near border crossing with Syria**

Lebanese security officials say a roadside bomb has exploded on the highway linking Beirut to the Syrian capital without causing casualties. The officials say the small bomb went off Tuesday morning near the town of Barr Elias, a few kilometers (miles) from the border crossing point of Masnaa. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The bomb comes a day after Lebanese troops fought heavily armed followers of a hard-line Sunni Muslim cleric holed up in a mosque in the southern city of Sidon.

**AP -** [**http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\_23533048/bomb-explodes-eastern-lebanon-near-syria#**](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23533048/bomb-explodes-eastern-lebanon-near-syria#)

**Libya**

**Gunmen kill six Libyan soldiers at checkpoint near Sirte**

Six Libyan soldiers were killed in an attack by unidentified gunmen on an army checkpoint south of the coastal city of Sirte, once a stronghold of slain leader Muammar Gaddafi, a Libyan security source said on Tuesday. There was no immediate word on who was behind the attack.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-libya-army-idUSBRE95O0JQ20130625**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/25/us-libya-army-idUSBRE95O0JQ20130625)

**State of Palestine**

**Far-right Israelis stir tensions over Jerusalem holy site**

Far-right Israelis are pressing for an end to an effective ban on holding Jewish prayers at a Jerusalem holy compound once dominated by Biblical temples and now home to al-Aqsa mosque, one of Islam's most revered sites. Palestinians oppose Jewish worship at the vast stone plaza overlooking Judaism's Western Wall as a potential threat to access for Muslims. Aware of the volatile mix of politics and religion, Israel has largely stymied such prayer for 46 years by having its police prevent Jewish worship at the site on grounds it could cause a public disturbance.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/24/us-palestinians-israel-jerusalem-idUSBRE95N0V520130624#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/24/us-palestinians-israel-jerusalem-idUSBRE95N0V520130624#)

**Sudan**

**Vaccination campaign in rebel held areas should be under Govt. supervision- UNICEF mention**

The foreign ministry reiterated Monday its position that a Polio vaccination campaign for children in rebel held areas should be fully carried out under the supervision of the Sudanese government. Since last April, UNICEF and the WHO proposed to the warring parties in South Kordofan and Blue Nile to carry out a polio vaccination and Vitamin A distribution campaign for about 150,000 children under the age of five years. Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) said this campaign should be conducted from outside Sudan and proposed Ethiopia and Kenya. The rebel group also refused to involve Sudanese aid workers saying they are infiltrated by the security service. The foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday they officially reaffirmed to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Mr. Ali Al-Za’tari, the position of the Sudanese government over this campaign.

**Sudan Tribune-** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47071**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47071)

**Syria**

**Syria battles rage in Damascus, Aleppo: NGO**

Fierce battles raged on the edges of Damascus Tuesday as the army pressed a major assault to crush rebels around the capital, a monitoring group and activists said. And in the contested city of Aleppo in the country’s north, rebels attempted to advance into western regime-held districts, sparking clashes with government forces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. “The army is trying to take over Qaboon, Barzeh, Jubar, Al-Hajar Al-Aswad and Yarmuk,” said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman, referring to neighbourhoods in the northern, eastern and southern outskirts of the capital. “The army doesn’t have the capacity to take over these neighbourhoods, and the rebels are fighting back. But the humanitarian situation there is catastrophic,” Abdel Rahman told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://www.nst.com.my/latest/syria-battles-rage-in-damascus-aleppo-ngo-1.307300**](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/syria-battles-rage-in-damascus-aleppo-ngo-1.307300)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisian military chief of staff announces retirement**

Tunisia's military Chief of Staff, General Rachid Ammar announced his retirement on Monday night, sparking further debate on the country's security situation. Ammar's announcement was aired by private Ettounsiya TV channel, during which the chief of staff, who was criticized for the army's inability to counter terrorism, said he has submitted his resignation to President Moncef Marzouki and his retirement had been overdue. He pointed out that Tunisia is facing three major threats, smuggling, terrorism and organized crime, noting that military security could not face these threats on its own, as it lacked a specialized intelligence agency.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-06/25/c\_132485585.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-06/25/c_132485585.htm)

**Yemen**

**UN-backed reconciliation talks takes on Southern issue**

After numerous delays due to internal disagreement between representatives of Yemen’s reconciliation talks ---dubbed National Dialogue Conference---the final report of the panel’s Sothern Issue work group has been released. The report, prepared by representatives of southern Yemenis, has found out that Southeners are facing serious problems that need to be taken care of immediately in a bid to put an end to decades of conflict between the north and south of the country. Ideological differences between the two sides, as well as years of military rule over the south after the 19-94 war, were two of the most important issues discussed in the report, among others. The study calls for further public awareness about the nature of issues people in the south are facing.

**Press TV -** [**http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/06/24/310526/yemens-unbacked-reconcilian-talks-takes-on-southern-issue/**](http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/06/24/310526/yemens-unbacked-reconcilian-talks-takes-on-southern-issue/)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**No word yet from Taliban on peace talks: US**

The United States and Afghanistan are still waiting to hear from the Taliban about opening peace talks, but remain willing to go ahead with negotiations despite a stir the militant group caused in opening a new office in Qatar, the main American envoy trying to spearhead the process said Monday. Following meetings with Qatari officials in Doha on Sunday and with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other officials in Kabul on Monday, James Dobbins said the Taliban appeared to have made a miscalculation when it opened the office last week under the flag and name they used when in power in Afghanistan. The office's creation was intended as a step toward starting talks that Dobbins said would initially be between the Taliban and the Americans, then bring in Karzai's government. But the Taliban's flourish in opening it with a ceremony shown live on TV prompted quick condemnation from Karzai.

**AP -** [**http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=195150220#**](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=195150220#)

**Taliban gunmen attack Afghanistan presidential palace**

Taliban militants targeted the presidential palace and national CIA office in central Kabul on Tuesday morning, with gunfire and explosions erupting at one of the gates of the complex in the Afghan capital. Blasts and gunshots shook the city for an hour after the first explosions at about 6:30 am, sending smoke into the air in a high-security area of Kabul that also contains many embassies and official buildings. Police said that three or four attackers had approached one entrance to the sprawling palace area and had fled their explosives-laden car before detonating it. Kabul police chief Mohammad Ayoub Salangi told reporters at the scene that all the militants had died and no security forces personnel or civilians were killed, giving no further details. A palace source told AFP that the expansive grounds around the building had not been breached.

**Reuters/AFP -** [**http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130625/news-world/article/taliban-gunmen-attack-afghanistan-presidential-palace#**](http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130625/news-world/article/taliban-gunmen-attack-afghanistan-presidential-palace#)

**India**

**1,000 dead in floods, rebuilding to take years**

Around 1,000 people have been killed in flash floods and landslides in northern India, as a top official warned Monday that rebuilding of the devastated Himalayan region would take years. The death toll climbed as fresh rains hampered the search for some 10,000 mainly pilgrims and tourists still stranded nine days after flash floods and landslides hit the tourist state of Uttarakhand. "The official information with us is that about 1,000 people have died," Yashpal Arya, the disaster relief minister for Uttarakhand, told AFP. Senior officials warned that the number killed could rise further as flood waters recede and debris is cleared by emergency workers, showing the full extent of the disaster in the mountainous region. The state's chief minister, Vijay Bahuguna, said the rescue operation would probably be completed in the next few days, but rebuilding of shattered infrastructure would take some three years.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130624/1000-dead-india-floods-rebuilding-take-years#**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130624/1000-dead-india-floods-rebuilding-take-years#)

**Indian soldiers killed in Kashmir attack**

At least eight soldiers have been killed in an attack by armed fighters in Indian-administered Kashmir, an army spokesman has said. ''Militants ambushed a vehicle carrying army personnel. They opened fire, lobbed a grenade and fled'' Naresh Vij, a Srinagar-based defence spokesman, told the Reuters news agency. At least six others were injured in the attack on Monday. It came ahead of a visit to the region by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Hizbul Mujahideen, an armed pro-Pakistan group, claimed responsibility for the attack and warned of more such attacks. On Saturday, Hizbul Mujahideen shot dead two policemen in the heart of Srinagar despite heightened security for Singh's two-day visit beginning on Tuesday.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/06/20136254386558890.html#**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/06/20136254386558890.html#)

**Nepal**

**Most severe floods in 50 years**

Floods and landslides caused by torrential monsoon rains in western Nepal and Indian state of Uttarakhand were the most severe in the last 50 years, according to International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. ICIMOD stated today at a press conference that the real time monitoring station at Dipayal showed 80.4mm rainfall on June 16 and 221.8mm on June 17. Dipayal is the adjoining district of Darchula, which is worst hit by the floods in the Mahakali River, with hundreds of people displaced and around 50 killed. In a report titled 2013 Monsoon floods in Nepal and India: What happened and what could have been done, the regional organisation working for economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem said the disaster happened at the beginning of the monsoon when no one was expecting.

**Himalayan Times -** [**http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Most+severe+floods+in+50+years&NewsID=381374#**](http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Most+severe+floods+in+50+years&NewsID=381374#)

**Pakistan**

**UNICEF receives €3M funds from ECHO to combat malnutrition**

ECHO has provided €3 million to UNICEF to work with partners to combat malnutrition among women and children affected by emergencies in Pakistan. This support comes at a critical time, as nutrition is a key concern in Pakistan especially in areas which have been hit by successive emergencies. These funds will help UNICEF and its partners in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces to increase the coverage of the 'Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition' which aims to provide essential life-saving interventions covering a total population of 1.9 million and providing nutrition services to 266,000 people. "Addressing acute malnutrition of women and children affected by disasters in Pakistan is an urgent priority for us," said David Sevcik, ECHO’s Head of Office in Islamabad.

**ECHO/UNICEF -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/unicef-receives-%E2%82%AC3-million-funds-european-commission-combat-malnutrition-pakistan#**](http://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/unicef-receives-%E2%82%AC3-million-funds-european-commission-combat-malnutrition-pakistan#)

TACR

**Brazil**

**Government sets $23B hike for transit after protests**

Under pressure after more than a week of nationwide protests, Brazilian leader Dilma Rousseff said Monday her government will spend $23 billion more on public transportation and announced five core areas that leaders will focus on to speed political reform and improvements to government services. Rousseff made the announcement after meeting with leaders of a free-transit activist group that launched the first demonstrations more than a week ago and has called for new protests Tuesday. The president also opened a meeting of governors and mayors from 26 capital cities to discuss ways to make deep improvements.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/brazil-leader-23b-spent-transit-19477114#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/brazil-leader-23b-spent-transit-19477114#)

**Ecuador**

**President vows 'sovereign' decision on Snowden**

President Rafael Correa vowed on Monday that Ecuador's decision on the "complicated" asylum case of fugitive former US spy agency contractor Edward Snowden would not be swayed by others. Snowden, 30, whose exposure of secret US surveillance infuriated Washington while making him a champion of civil liberties for others, has requested asylum from the tiny South American nation's leftist government. His whereabouts remains uncertain after he flew at the weekend from Hong Kong to Moscow.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/24/us-usa-security-correa-idUSBRE95N0YX20130624#**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/24/us-usa-security-correa-idUSBRE95N0YX20130624#)

**Haiti**

**Country gets $35.5M grant to improve water services**

Haiti is receiving $35.5 million from the Inter-American Development Bank to improve drinking water services in the nation's capital of Port-au-Prince. The grant will support a program created in 2010 with the help of the bank and the Spanish Cooperation Fund in Water and Sanitation in Latin American and the Caribbean. The program aims to cut losses from leaks, clandestine connections and unpaid bills. It also seeks to improve revenue to cover operational expenses. The effort will be carried out by Haiti's national water and sanitation agency and a water company that serves the Port-au-Prince area. The country's tattered infrastructure has helped spread cholera, which officials say has killed thousands.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/haiti-355m-grant-improve-water-services-19477466#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/haiti-355m-grant-improve-water-services-19477466#)

**Peru**

**Security forces remove explosive charges from pipeline in south**

Several explosive charges were removed by military bomb experts on the Camisea pipeline in the southeastern Peruvian region of Cuzco, the Armed Forces Joint Command said Monday. Joint army and National Police patrols launched an operation Saturday in the area around the pipeline, which is operated by Transportadora de Gas del Peru, or TGP, to evaluate damage caused by a guerrilla attack last October on the duct.

**EFE-** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/130624/security-forces-remove-explosive-charges-pipeline-southern-peru#**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/130624/security-forces-remove-explosive-charges-pipeline-southern-peru#)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**West Africa seeks anti-piracy force**

West African leaders have called for the deployment of an international naval force to curb the growing threat of piracy off the Gulf of Guinea. Piracy in the region needed to be tackled with "firmness", Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara said, at a meeting of regional leaders. There are now more pirate attacks off West Africa than off Somalia, maritime groups said last week. Patrols by foreign warships have reduced attacks by Somali pirates.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23033418##**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23033418##)

**CAR**

**Gold mine collapses, at least 37 dead**

At least 37 gold miners died and many others were injured in the Central African Republic when a pit in which they were working collapsed after heavy rains, the country's presidency said on Monday. The incident happened on Sunday at a gold mine in Ndassima, some 440 km (273 miles) east of the capital, Bangui, and three days of national mourning have been declared. "The toll of 37 is provisional as there were many injured," said Prosper Ndouba, spokesman for the president's office. Ndouba said that 10 injured miners had been rescued but there were an unknown number of bodies still buried after the accident.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/central-african-republic-gold-mine-collapses-least-37-192248007.html#**](http://news.yahoo.com/central-african-republic-gold-mine-collapses-least-37-192248007.html#)

**Mali**

**Full support needed for UN mission**

The international community must give its full support to the United Nations to stabilise Mali, a senior Algerian official said on Monday, at the start of a regional security conference in the city of Oran. The Algerian official made no reference to Sunday's offer by the Al-Qaeda-linked Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) to free some Algerian diplomats kidnapped in Mali last year in exchange for three militants held in Algeria. Algeria has always taken an uncompromising stance towards hostage takers, refusing to pay ransoms and lobbying for its allies to do likewise. The presidential adviser said it was "proven that ransoms and drug trafficking finance terrorist groups."

**AFP-** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130624/full-support-needed-un-mission-mali#**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130624/full-support-needed-un-mission-mali#)

**Nigeria**

**Amnesty has credible reports of 4 hanged in Edo state**

Traumatized inmates heard screams and thuds from the gallows as Nigerian authorities Monday hanged four convicted criminals in the West African nation's first known executions since 2006, a human rights lawyer said. A fifth man at Benin City Prison was briefly saved when the executioner had technical problems with the gallows, Chino Obiagwu of the national lawyers' rights group LEPAD told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. Attorney General Henry Idahagbon of southern Edo state confirmed the four executions, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported. Amnesty International's deputy Africa director, Lucy Freeman, said the hangings would mark "a truly dark day for human rights" in Africa's most populous nation.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/amnesty-credible-reports-hanged-nigeria-19476053#**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/amnesty-credible-reports-hanged-nigeria-19476053#)

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.

Disclaimer: The views presented here are those of the original authors and are not necessarily shared by UNICEF. Please note that these news stories should be used solely for official purposes. Our license agreement does not permit users to store, post or redistribute the contents beyond personal use. We kindly ask that UNICEF colleagues be responsible users of copyrighted material. For information on this service please contact: