**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief -** **Wednesday, 10 July 2013**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| GENERAL | **Across Regions** | Risk of sectarian killings in Pakistan, Syria "critical" |
| CEE/CIS | **Turkey** | Protesters break Ramadan fast as police stand by |
| EAPRO | **China** | Mudslide in western China buries dozens of people |
|  |  | One dead, seven injured in central China blast |
| MENA | **Across MENA** | Hamas shaken and cautious after Egyptian upheaval |
|  |  | Saudi Arabia gives Egypt $5 billion in aid |
|  |  | Rocket fired from Egypt found in Israel |
|  |  | Egypt reopens border crossing with Gaza |
|  | **Egypt** | Transition timetable, starting with amending constitution and leading to elections |
|  |  | Senior economist named prime minister |
|  |  | Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood rejects Cabinet offer |
|  |  | Amnesty slams Egypt army's 'disproportionate' use of force |
|  |  | Attacks on security checkpoint kill two in Egypt's Sinai |
|  | **State of Palestine** | Hamas shaken and cautious after Egyptian upheaval |
|  | **Syria** | Freed Syria activist talks of 'confessions', jail horror |
| ROSA | **Afghanistan** | Roadside bomb kills 17 civilians, including 4 children |
| TACRO | **Mexico** | Confusion over 'unreliable' Baja California vote count |
| WCARO | **CAR** | Spike in disease and food security fears |
|  | **DR Congo** | Congo rebels want ceasefire before talks |
|  | **Guinea** | Guinea election body sets legislative polls for 24 September |
|  | **Mali** | Two civilians wounded in northern Mali rebel stronghold |
|  | **Nigeria** | Nigeria jails 'Boko Haram' militants for life |
|  |  | Gunmen kill nine in Nigeria |

**Across Regions**

**Risk of sectarian killings in Pakistan, Syria "critical"**

The risk of sectarian killings, especially between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, has spiked in much of the Middle East and Asia, according to an annual list of people under threat. Pakistan, Syria, Yemen and Egypt have all risen up the table since last year, with religious minorities at particular risk, Minority Rights Group (MRG) said, launching its survey identifying people at greatest risk of genocide, mass killing or other violent repression. "Muslim groups, of various denominations, are now at risk of mass killing in nine out of the top 10 states in the index. They may find themselves targeted because of their religion, but more often on account of their sect, or their ethnicity," MRG executive director Mark Lattimer said in a statement. MRG listed the most dangerous countries for minorities as Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130710105235-q8uo9/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130710105235-q8uo9/?source=hptop)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Protesters break Ramadan fast as police stand by**

Turkish police allowed thousands of protesters who have been trying to block the redevelopment of a park in Istanbul to break their Ramadan fast on Tuesday before resuming efforts to get them to leave the area. The previous night police fired teargas and water cannon at protesters as they tried to prevent them gathering in Gezi Park, which has become the focal point of protests against Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government. Two leftist Muslim groups sympathetic to the protests, the Revolutionary Muslims and Anti-Capitalist Muslims, hosted fast-breaking dinner in a nearby pedestrian street by the Gezi Park on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/us-turkey-protests-idUSBRE96813N20130709**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/us-turkey-protests-idUSBRE96813N20130709)

EAPR

**China**

**Mudslide in western China buries dozens of people**Flooding in western China, the worst in 50 years for some areas, has triggered a landslide that buried up to 40 people and destroyed a high-profile memorial to a devastating 2008 earthquake. There was no immediate word on the chances of survival for the 30 to 40 people buried in the city of Dujiangyan, but rescue workers with search dogs had rushed to the area, the official Xinhua News Agency said. In nearby Beichuan county, flooding destroyed buildings. The flooding also caused the collapse of an almost 50-year-old bridge in a neighboring county, sending six vehicles into the raging waters and leaving 12 people missing. Since Sunday, flooding in Sichuan has affected 360,000 people, damaging or destroying 300 homes, and forcing at least 6,100 emergency evacuations, state media reported.  
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mudslide-western-china-buries-dozens-people-070421989.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mudslide-western-china-buries-dozens-people-070421989.html) **One dead, seven injured in central China blast**One person was killed and seven others were injured in a chemical plant explosion in central China's Hubei Province on Wednesday. The blast occurred at a biochemical plant in the city of Suizhou, local firefighting authorities said, adding that one person remains missing following the explosion, according to China's News Agency (Xinhua). More than 100 firefighters have been sent to the scene of the blast.   
**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-07/10/c\_132529282.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-07/10/c_132529282.htm)

MENA

**Across MENA  
Saudi Arabia gives Egypt $5 billion in aid**

Saudi Arabia approved a $5 billion aid package to Egypt on Tuesday comprising a $2 billion central bank deposit, $2 billion in energy products, and $1 billion in cash, the Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim Alassaf told Reuters. The aid comes after the Egyptian army overthrew President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/saudi-arabia-gives-egypt-5-billion-aid-155847136.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/saudi-arabia-gives-egypt-5-billion-aid-155847136.html)

**Rocket fired from Egypt found in Israel**Israeli troops found the remains on Tuesday of the first rocket to be fired from Egypt since the July 3 overthrow of the Islamist government there, a military official said. Israelis reported hearing several explosions in the southern city of Eilat on Thursday, the day after Mohammed Mursi was toppled from power in Egypt. Israel detected no signs of any cross-border shooting, but found the remains of a rocket on Tuesday, an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/us-israel-rocket-idUSBRE96812C20130709?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/us-israel-rocket-idUSBRE96812C20130709?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Egypt reopens border crossing with Gaza**Egyptian authorities have partially reopened the Rafah border crossing with the Palestinian Gaza Strip. People stranded on both sides of the border have been allowed to move through the crossing following thorough search, security officials said. The crossing, closed on Friday following attacks in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, is open for "humanitarian considerations" on Wednesday and Thursday. It is to close again on Friday.   
**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-opens-border-gate-allow-stranded-gazans-cross-092952659.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-opens-border-gate-allow-stranded-gazans-cross-092952659.html)

**Egypt  
Transition timetable, starting with amending constitution and leading to elections**Egypt's military-backed interim president has issued a 7-month timetable for the country's transition after the ouster of President Mohammed Morsi, starting with amending the constitution and leading to elections for a new parliament and president by the first months of next year. The schedule aims to swiftly put in place a new democratically formed government even as the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists continue protests demanding the reinstating of Morsi.  
**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/09/egypt-transition-timetable-starting-with-amending-constitution-and-leading-to/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/09/egypt-transition-timetable-starting-with-amending-constitution-and-leading-to/) **Senior economist named prime minister**Egypt's military-backed interim president named a prominent economist, Hazem el-Beblawi, as prime minister on Tuesday and appointed pro-democracy leader Mohamed ElBaradei as a vice president, a presidential spokesman announced, ending days of deadlock over filling the top posts of a new government. The announcement comes a day after the interim leadership laid out a fast-track timetable to elect a new president and parliament by early next year. The swift issuing of the plan showed a determination to entrench a new political system in the face of protesters who vow to continue their street campaign aiming to reverse the military's ousting of President Mohammed Morsi.  
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-senior-economist-named-prime-minister-145758388.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-senior-economist-named-prime-minister-145758388.html) **Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood rejects Cabinet offer**A spokesman for Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood says the group will reject any offer to join an interim government to replace the administration of ousted President Mohammed Morsi. Newly appointed Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi is to begin forming a Cabinet on Wednesday, and has said he will offer the Brotherhood posts in a new government. A Brotherhood spokesman dismissed any talk of joining a military-backed administration, and said talk of national reconciliation is "irrelevant."   
**Aljazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/07/2013710784887308.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/07/2013710784887308.html) **Amnesty slams Egypt army's 'disproportionate' use of force**Amnesty International said on Wednesday it had evidence pointing to the "disproportionate" use of lethal force by Egyptian security forces, and called for them to be reined in to avoid "disaster". The claim by the human rights watchdog comes two days after at least 51 people, most of them supporters of the ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, died in clashes outside the Cairo headquarters of the elite Republican Guard. Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood claimed police and troops "massacred" their supporters as they performed dawn prayers, while the army said it came under attack by "terrorists." Amnesty said at least 88 people have died in protests and political violence since Friday, including three members of the security forces, with some 1,500 people wounded in the unrest.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90034-amnesty-slams-egypt-army-s-disproportionate-use-of-force**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90034-amnesty-slams-egypt-army-s-disproportionate-use-of-force) **Attacks on security checkpoint kill two in Egypt's Sinai**Two back-to-back attacks Wednesday on a security checkpoint in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula left two civilians dead and six people injured, a security official said. The assaults were carried out by gunmen in the area of Sadr al-Hetan in central Sinai. Those injured were three policemen and three civilians. The civilian victims were driving in the area when the assaults occurred, the official said.   
**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/10/militants-in-egypt-kill-at-least-2-in-attack-targeting-security-checkpoint/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/10/militants-in-egypt-kill-at-least-2-in-attack-targeting-security-checkpoint/)

**State of Palestine**

**Hamas shaken and cautious after Egyptian upheaval**

Just a year ago, tens of thousands of Hamas supporters took to the streets of Gaza for a noisy celebration of the election of fellow Islamist Mohammad Mursi as Egypt’s president. Stunned silence among Hamas officials in the Palestinian enclave, which shares a border with Egypt’s lawless Sinai peninsula, greeted his overthrow last Wednesday by the Egyptian military. A shaken Hamas is cautiously watching the scenes of street battles between pro- and anti-Mursi demonstrators in Egypt’s cities and pondering how the turmoil will play out and what it means for its own rule in the Gaza Strip.

**Reuters -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/07/09/Hamas-shaken-and-cautious-after-Egyptian-upheaval.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/07/09/Hamas-shaken-and-cautious-after-Egyptian-upheaval.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Roadside bomb kills 17 civilians, including 4 children**

A Taliban bomb in western Afghanistan on Tuesday killed 12 women, 4 children and one man travelling in a minivan, officials said, adding that at least seven other passengers were wounded. The police chief of Herat's Obe district said that the vehicle struck a roadside mine planted by the Taliban as it travelled from Obe district centre to a nearby village. Also on Tuesday, an Afghan soldier shot dead a Slovakian soldier, officials said, in the latest "insider attack" to shake efforts by the NATO coalition and the Afghan army to work together to defeat the Taliban insurgency. The shooting occurred outside Kandahar airfield.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j4GekBu5Al8GgprSPIMChAljj-Fg?docId=CNG.77ada32acaf24da2ad68d54bc58441d0.311**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j4GekBu5Al8GgprSPIMChAljj-Fg?docId=CNG.77ada32acaf24da2ad68d54bc58441d0.311)

TACR

**Mexico**

**Confusion over 'unreliable' Baja California vote count**

Mexican election officials have sparked confusion by announcing the result of a key local election, and later saying that their count was unreliable. Both the opposition and the governing party had claimed victory in Sunday's vote in Baja California state. The opposition, initially declared the winner, has threatened to withdraw co-operation with the federal government on a reform package agreed last year. Officials have ordered a recount, to be finalised by the weekend. However, electoral council spokeswoman Helga Casanova said errors in the count meant the result "should not be considered reliable".

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23238613**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23238613)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Spike in disease and food security fears**

The precarious security situation in the CAR is worsening seasonal food insecurity and increasing the burden of disease, especially among children, warns a humanitarian official. However, the instability has aggravated pre-existing food security problems: a poor harvest, poor food supplies and volatile food prices and, as a result, the country could also be at risk of a rise in malnutrition cases," Ellen Van Der Velden, the head of mission of MSF in CAR, said. Between January and March, MSF-supported health facilities in CAR treated 74,729 patients for malaria, a dramatic increase over the same period in 2012, when 50,442 patients were treated for the disease.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98386**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98386)

**DR Congo  
Congo rebels want ceasefire before talks**Congo's M23 rebels are calling for a ceasefire before continuing peace negotiations with the government. M23 spokesman Kabasha Amani said Tuesday there was no agreement yet, and there were a number of points that still needed to be discussed, above all the need for a ceasefire, which he said was a precondition for negotiations. He was reacting to an announcement by the government delegation on Monday that a draft peace agreement was ready to be signed.  
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/congo-rebels-want-ceasefire-talks-180438293.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/congo-rebels-want-ceasefire-talks-180438293.html)

**Guinea  
Guinea election body sets legislative polls for 24 September**  
Guinea's long-delayed legislative election aimed at completing the nation's transition to democracy will be held on 24 Sept., its electoral commission said on Tuesday. Guinea's government and opposition parties reached a U.N.-mediated agreement last week to hold elections at the end of September following a wave of opposition protests accusing President Alpha Conde of planning to rig the polls. Under Guinean law, President Conde, who was elected in 2010 in Guinea's first democratic election since independence in 1958, must now accept or reject the proposed date. The elections, initially planned for 2011, have been postponed several times as a result of disputes between the opposition and the government over preparations for the vote.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/guinea-election-idusl6n0ff4cs20130709**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/09/guinea-election-idusl6n0ff4cs20130709) **Mali  
Two civilians wounded in northern Mali rebel stronghold**Two Malian civilians were shot in Kidal, a medical source said on Tuesday, with tension boiling over five days after troops entered the flashpoint northeastern town to secure it for nationwide elections. The violence came amid intensified protests in the rebel stronghold, where the Tuareg separatist National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) has allowed the Malian army to enter as part of a peace deal to pave the way for the 28 July vote. Kidal, a town prized by the Tuareg, has been occupied by the MNLA since January but the rebels agreed as part of the ceasefire deal reached in neighbouring Burkina Faso to let troops in to secure the elections.

**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/two-civilians-wounded-northern-mali-rebel-stronghold?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29**](http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/two-civilians-wounded-northern-mali-rebel-stronghold?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ReliefwebUpdates+%28ReliefWeb+-+Latest+Updates%29) **Nigeria  
Nigeria jails 'Boko Haram' militants for life**Four alleged members of the Islamist Boko Haram group have been sentenced to life for their role in bomb attacks that killed 19 people. They were found guilty of masterminding and carrying out attacks on an electoral commission office and a church last year. These are the heaviest sentences given to any Boko Haram suspects. The group is responsible for a series of deadly attacks across northern and central Nigeria. It has increasingly targeted civilians, with more than 2,000 people killed since Boko Haram launched its insurgency in 2009.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23245702**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23245702) **Gunmen kill nine in Nigeria**Gunmen have killed at least nine people in attacks on three villages in Nigeria's MidEast region, the local Daily Times newspaper reported Wednesday. The reason for the attacks on the villages in the district of Nzorov, in Benue state, remains unknown, according to police spokesman Daniel Ezeala. Scores of residents have fled to neighbouring villages. It was the third such attack this month alone in the area of Guma, in which Nzorov is located.   
**DPA -** [**http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/07/10/nine-killed-in-nigeria-s-mideast**](http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2013/07/10/nine-killed-in-nigeria-s-mideast)

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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**India**

**Indian doctors to be sacked for abandoning flood victims**

Almost 200 Indian government doctors will lose their jobs after they failed to report for duty during the devastating floods that hit the country's northern Himalayan region last month, the Indian Express reported on Tuesday. The floods in the popular Hindu pilgrimage region of Uttarakhand killed 580 people, yet more than 3,000 are still missing and thousands have been injured. Authorities and aid workers are still struggling to reach remote villages that have been cut off by landslides, and there are fears of epidemics due to the rotting corpses buried under rubble brought by the torrents of water. Uttarakhand's Health Minister Surinder Singh Negi told the Indian Express that 190 government doctors - who were on leave at the height of the disaster - did not report for duty, despite being told to do so.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130710054236-rp96y/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130710054236-rp96y/?source=hptop)

**Across TACRO**

**Tropical Storm Chantal heads for Dominican Republic, Haiti**

Tropical Storm Chantal headed toward the Dominican Republic and Haiti on Tuesday, barreling across the Caribbean and threatening to ramp up to near hurricane strength. Chantal was centered about 270 miles (440 km) southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico at 5 p.m. EDT (2100 GMT), the Miami-based U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The storm was packing top sustained winds of 65 miles per hour (100 kph) and was moving west-northwest at 26 mph (43 kph). On its current path, the storm is forecast to pass over the Dominican Republic and Haiti on Wednesday. Authorities in the Dominican Republic issued a hurricane watch for areas along the country's southern coast. Chantal, the third named storm of the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, does not pose an immediate threat to U.S. oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130709232009-16eyj/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130709232009-16eyj/?source=hptop)

**Across EAPRO**

**Papuan rebel leader vows to keep fighting Indonesia**

A commander of a Papuan militant group who had half his leg amputated because of a gunshot wound has vowed to return to the jungle to fight against Indonesian rule. Speaking from a rebel training camp just inside the Papua New Guinean border, Danny Kogoya says he was unarmed and surrendering when police shot him below the knee last year. Indonesian police say he was resisting arrest. Now at his PNG hideout, known as Camp Victoria, Mr Kogoya's fellow rebels are holding a small show of arms. Displaying homemade rifles, bows and arrows and with some wearing ceremonial headdresses and shell necklaces, they rally around the Morning Star flag - the symbol of West Papuan independence that is banned in Indonesia. They have no bullets but they say they want to fight the Indonesians.

**ABC-** [**http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-10/wounded-papuan-rebel-commander-speaks-from-jungle-hideout/4811188**](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-10/wounded-papuan-rebel-commander-speaks-from-jungle-hideout/4811188)

**China**

**Sichuan landslide 'buries up to 40 people'**

A landslide has buried between 30 and 40 people in China's Sichuan province, state media say. The landslide occurred in Zhongxing town on Wednesday morning. More than 100 rescuers with rescue dogs were at the scene, Xinhua news agency said. The landslide followed days of torrential rain across parts of China that has caused floods in some areas. On Tuesday, a bridge in Sichuan's Jiangyou collapsed, with at least 12 people missing. Footage from Chinese state media, meanwhile, showed the dramatic rescue of a Deyang factory worker, who was stranded by the floods after the factory was washed away.

**BBC-** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-23251188**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-23251188)

**Syria**

**Rebels disperse food protest with gunfire**

Syrian rebels fired into the air to disperse a protest by civilians in a rebel-held district of Aleppo against a blockade preventing food and medicine reaching government-held areas of the northern city of Aleppo, residents said on Wednesday. Rebel fighters have stopped supplies entering western Aleppo for weeks. The tactic is aimed at weakening the supply routes of President Bashar al-Assad's forces but thousands of civilians are now left hungry, residents say. Video footage posted on the Internet on Tuesday showed dozens of civilians in the rebel-held neighborhood of Bustan al-Qasr protesting at a rebel checkpoint which prevents supplies from entering the western part of the city, home to 2 million people and held by the army.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/syrian-rebels-disperse-food-protest-gunfire-112544506.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/syrian-rebels-disperse-food-protest-gunfire-112544506.html)