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GENERAL

**Uganda/DRC**

**DRC-based Ugandan rebel group "recruiting, training"**

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan rebel movement based in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is recruiting, training and reorganizing to carry out fresh attacks on Uganda, officials say. According to media reports in DRC, early on Thursday morning the group clashed with FARDC in Kamango, a town in North Kivu Province close to the Ugandan border, briefly ousting the army before withdrawing. Uganda's NTV tweeted that thousands of Congolese had fled across the border to the western Ugandan town of Bundibugyo.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98400/drc-based-ugandan-rebel-group-recruiting-training**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98400/drc-based-ugandan-rebel-group-recruiting-training)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Serbia and Montenegro "should continue regional cooperation**

Serbian and Montenegrin parliament speakers have said the two countries should continue regional cooperation and inter-parliamentary exchange of experience. This is true especially in the context of European integration, Nebojša Stefanović and Ranko Krivokapić stated in Belgrade on Thursday. Stefanović called for an increased and effective inter-parliamentary cooperation, primarily through the exchange of experiences and direct cooperation between the two parliaments' working bodies.The Serbian parliament speaker also urged for continuing the two parliaments' close cooperation in international organizations. Stefanović expressed satisfaction about the fact that this was the first official bilateral meeting between the parliament speakers of Serbia and Montenegro, other meetings having taken place on the margins of multilateral meetings.

**TANJUG-** [**http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2013&mm=07&dd=11&nav\_id=86922**](http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics.php?yyyy=2013&mm=07&dd=11&nav_id=86922)

EAPRO

**Cambodia**

**Cambodian opposition leader says to return in days**Cambodian opposition leader in exile Sam Rainsy told AFP Friday that he would return "in the next few days" to campaign for his party in elections after receiving a royal pardon. "It is a small victory for democracy that the leader of the opposition be allowed to be in the country during election campaigning and on election day... much more remains to be done," he said by telephone from France.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130712/cambodian-opposition-leader-says-return-days**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130712/cambodian-opposition-leader-says-return-days)

**Indonesia**

**Five dead in Indonesia prison riot: police**

At least 5 people have been killed in violent riots at a jail in western Indonesia police said Friday. Security forces were still struggling to regain control of the prison in Medan city on Sumatra island on Friday after riots erupted the previous day. Around 150 people escaped during the unrest at the Tanjung Gusta prison. Inmates set the jail on fire after becoming angry at power cuts and water shortages at the prison. Around 55 prisoners who had escaped had been recaptured, including three terror convicts. However, around 100 prisoners were still on the loose, including six terror convicts.

**AFP -** [**http://news.xin.msn.com/en/regional/indonesia/five-dead-in-indonesia-prison-riot-police**](http://news.xin.msn.com/en/regional/indonesia/five-dead-in-indonesia-prison-riot-police)

**Aceh quake death toll 39, over 50,000 displaced says UN**

The death toll from an earthquake that struck the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island last week now stands at 39, with more than 2,500 injured and some 52,000 displaced, according to the United Nations’ latest report. The 52,113 displaced people are about 28% of the population of the affected districts, the UN said, adding that six people are still missing and 16,560 houses and other buildings have been damaged, citing government figures. Main roads that were damaged by the earthquake or blocked by landslides, hampering relief efforts, have now been cleared, it said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130711103044-t2as7/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130711103044-t2as7/?source=hptop)

**Thailand  
Militants seek weeks-long halt to Thai violence**A Malaysian official says Muslim separatist negotiators will attempt to halt all violence in insurgency-plagued southern Thai provinces throughout the Islamic fasting month. The pledge by the National Revolution Front group is the biggest test so far of whether peace talks that began this year with the Thai government might yield substantive results. A Malaysian government representative facilitating the negotiations said Friday that rebel officials will try to curb all armed attacks and bombings through 18 August. Ahmad Zamzamin Hashim said the pledge was part of "a common understanding to work toward achieving a violence-free Ramadan," the Muslim holy month of fasting that began this week.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/militants-seek-weeks-long-halt-thai-violence-19646103**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/militants-seek-weeks-long-halt-thai-violence-19646103)

ESARO

**Somalia**

**Suicide bomber kills 2 in attack targeted AU convoy**

A police official says a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near a moving convoy of African Union troops in Somalia's capital, killing himself and at least two others. Mogadishu police official Mohamed Abdi said Friday the dead were civilians passing by, but he did not yet know if any soldiers were wounded in the attack near Mogadishu's international airport. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack, but the al-Qaida-linked rebels of al-Shabab frequently stage similar attacks in Mogadishu.

**AP-** [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20130712/af-somalia-violence/?utm\_hp\_ref=media&ir=media**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20130712/af-somalia-violence/?utm_hp_ref=media&ir=media)

**UNHCR proposes body to repatriate Somalia refugees**

The global refugee agency has proposed the formation of a body that will handle the repatriation of Somalia refugees from Kenya. UNHCR boss António Guterres wants the refugees, most based at the Dadaab Camp, be returned home in phases managed by a special commission. The Commission would include members from Kenya and Somalia authorities as well as the agency itself in what Mr Guterres argues would ensure an acceptable return of the Somalis to their homes. Kenya hosts more than 600,000 Somalia refugees, 400,000 of who stay in Dadaab camp in Garissa County. But the government has been demanding that they be returned home following the achievement of relative peace by AU Forces in Somalia.

**Daily Nation-** [**http://www.nation.co.ke/News/UN-agency-proposes-body-to-repatriate-Somalia-refugees-/-/1056/1912466/-/sa8boqz/-/index.html**](http://www.nation.co.ke/News/UN-agency-proposes-body-to-repatriate-Somalia-refugees-/-/1056/1912466/-/sa8boqz/-/index.html)

**South Sudan**

**Thousands displaced in South Sudan need aid, protection**

Some of the more than 20,000 displaced people in South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal state have been reduced to eating leaves because they have very little access to aid, and their situation could worsen as the rainy season gets under way, an international medical aid group has warned. MSF said the northwest region's remoteness will make it almost impossible to move supplies by road once the rains get heavier. "These areas will be practically inaccessible, so the population will be completely isolated if pre-positioning of food and non-food (aid) items is not done right now," MSF's head of mission in South Sudan reported. **Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130711123601-wm8ah/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130711123601-wm8ah/?source=dpagehead)

**Zimbabwe**

**Zimbabwe PM urges regional bloc protest over 'illegal' vote**

Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party has urged the Southern African Development Community to press President Robert Mugabe not to proceed with "illegal" elections later this month. "We wrote a letter to SADC over President Mugabe's unilateral decision to hold elections without finality on reforms," Finance Minister Tendai Biti, who is also secretary general of Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), told AFP. At a recent summit in Mozambique, the 15-member regional bloc had in vain urged Mugabe to delay the 31 July polls to allow time for key reforms to guarantee a free and fair vote.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/11/zimbabwe-pm-urges-protest-over-illegal-vote/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/11/zimbabwe-pm-urges-protest-over-illegal-vote/) **Alarming clampdown on basic freedoms ahead of elections**  
Zimbabwean police are continuing to target and intimidate human rights defenders ahead of elections later this month according to a new report by Amnesty International. Walk the Talk details how the police have conducted systematic raids on offices, arbitrarily arrested human rights defenders and seized equipment to intimidate and disrupt the work of organizations carrying out election related human rights work. “The clampdown on the work of human rights defenders is a worrying indicator that government agencies remain actively hostile to civil society,” said Noel Kututwa, Amnesty International’s Africa Deputy Programme Director. At the end of 2012, amid speculation that Zimbabwe would hold elections as early as March 2013, Amnesty International documented increased targeting of human rights defenders and civil society organisations. Since November 2012, at least five police raids of NGO offices have been conducted and dozens of human rights defenders unlawfully detained. Many are appearing in the courts on trumped-up charges that are widely considered to be politically motivated.  
**Amnesty International - <http://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/alarming-clampdown-basic-freedoms-ahead-elections>**MENA  
  
**Across MENA  
First SARS-type virus case confirmed in the UAE**Health officials in Abu Dhabi have confirmed that an 82-year-old Emirati has been diagnosed with the SARS-type coronovirus. The elderly man was diagnosed while being treated in one of the hospitals in the UAE capital. It represents the first diagnosed case of the disease within UAE, news agency WAM reported. The Ministry of Health said that WHO first issued an international alert in September 2012 and a total of 80 cases of MERS-CoV have been confirmed worldwide. The Ministry of Health added that the virus "is not a concern for public health at the moment" and that the current situation does not require a travel ban to any country in the world.  
**Arabian Business -** [**http://www.arabianbusiness.com/first-sars-type-virus-case-confirmed-in-uae-508750.html**](http://www.arabianbusiness.com/first-sars-type-virus-case-confirmed-in-uae-508750.html)

**Egypt**

**Copt found decapitated in Sinai**

A Coptic Christian man was found decapitated on Thursday in Egypt's Sinai peninsula five days after he was kidnappped by gunmen, security officials and witnesses told AFP. The man was found with his hands and feet bound and his head severed in the Sheikh Zuwayed area of north Sinai, they said. A security official said "extremist groups" had captured the man on Saturday, the same day that a Coptic priest was killed. Analysts had highlighted the danger of extremists exploiting tensions and unrest across Egypt since the military overthrew president Mohamed Morsi last week.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/11/egypt-copt-found-decapitated-in-sinai/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/11/egypt-copt-found-decapitated-in-sinai/)

**Militants in Egypt's Sinai kill police officer**Egyptian security officials say suspected Islamic militants have attacked a police checkpoint in the Sinai Peninsula and killed an officer. The officials say the attack happened early on Friday south the city of el-Arish when militants fired an RPG at an armored car at the checkpoint, killing 40-year-old Lt. Col. Ahmed Mahmoud. The attack also wounded a policeman who was taken to hospital and was reported to be in critical condition. Militant attacks in Sinai have been on the rise since the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak. Criminals have also taken advantage of the security vacuum to attack police stations, security convoys and other targets.   
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/militants-egypts-sinai-kill-police-officer-073838637.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/militants-egypts-sinai-kill-police-officer-073838637.html)

**Egypt to Investigate Morsi for 2011 Jailbreak**

Prosecutors will investigate allegations that Egypt's ousted president escaped from prison during the 2011 revolution with help from the Palestinian militant group Hamas, officials said Thursday. Chief prosecutor Hesham Barakat has received testimonies from a court in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia that will be the base for an investigation by state security prosecutors into the jailbreak by Mohammed Morsi and more than 30 other Muslim Brotherhood leaders. Critics in the opposition and judiciary have suggested that proof of foreign intervention on Egyptian soil could lead to treason charges.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-investigate-morsi-2011-jailbreak-19644066**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-investigate-morsi-2011-jailbreak-19644066)

**Demonstrators prepare for Cairo million-man demonstration Friday**

More demonstrators flocked to the sit-in at Cairo's Rabaa al-Adaweya Mosque on Thursday in preparation for a million-man demonstration on Friday which the National Coalition for Supporting Legitimacy called for. The demonstrators demand returning deposed president Mohamed Mursi to power and reversing what they call the military coup against democracy. Several planned marches are expected to gather on Friday at Rabaa Mosque in Cairo and Nahda Square in Giza as well as Shubra al-Kheima and Moneeb areas then head to the presidential palace, the Republican Guard headquarters and the Ministry of Defence.

**Aswat Masriya -** [**http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/view.aspx?id=c22c432c-48aa-4fb9-8069-04b0a36acff3**](http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/view.aspx?id=c22c432c-48aa-4fb9-8069-04b0a36acff3)

**Egypt's Brotherhood plans peaceful protests until Morsi reinstated**

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood said on Thursday it would hold mass rallies across the country at the weekend and continue peaceful protests until Mohammed Morsi was reinstated as president, defying military calls to accept a road map for a new election. "The people will regain their freedom and dignity by holding peaceful sit-ins and demonstrations in major squares," said Essam al-Erian, a senior Brotherhood official.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23274632**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23274632)

**Egypt unrest could threaten food security-UN agency**

Civil unrest and dwindling foreign exchange reserves raise serious food security concerns in Egypt, the FAO said in a report on Thursday. Cereal import requirements for 2013/14 in Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer, will remain similar to last year despite good prospects for its own harvest, the FAO said, pointing to an expanding population. But FAO warned in its Crop Prospects and Food Situation report that declining foreign exchange reserves may result in increased restrictions on transactions by Egypt's Central Bank, thus curtailing the imports.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130711082740-ao986/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130711082740-ao986/?source=hptop)

**Iraq   
Dozens killed and wounded in new attacks**Bomb and gun attacks across Iraq have killed more than 30 people, many of them members of the security forces, in the past day, officials say. More than 2,500 Iraqis have died in violent attacks since April, according to UN figures released last week. Iraq has been experiencing its worst sectarian violence for a number of years. According to the UN data, May was the bloodiest month since June 2008. The recent surge in violence comes amid heightened tensions between Iraq's Sunni and Shia communities, amid claims by the Sunnis that they are being marginalised by Prime Minister Nouri Maliki's Shia-led government. Although the violence is less deadly than that seen during the height of the insurgency in 2006 and 2007, it is the most widespread since the US military withdrawal in 2011.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23279275#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23279275)

**State of Palestine**

**Israeli group hits detention of Palestinian boy**An Israeli human rights group says the military should find another way to deal with young Palestinian stone throwers after video showed soldiers detaining a 5-year-old in the West Bank city of Hebron. B'Tselem spokeswoman Sarit Michaeli said Friday that the detention was illegal. The video shows soldiers taking the boy away in a jeep. Later he is seen with his blindfolded father. A military official said they were held for several hours because Palestinian police arrived late to take them. The Israeli military said the boy was detained after throwing stones at a main road, endangering passersby.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israeli-group-hits-detention-palestinian-boy-19645864**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/israeli-group-hits-detention-palestinian-boy-19645864)

**Sudan**

**Sudanese cabinet approves anti-human trafficking law**The Sudanese cabinet today endorsed a draft bill on combating human trafficking in line with previous government pledges to tack the issue this year. The proposed law details human trafficking offenses and penalties while specifying measures aimed at protecting victims and witnesses and maintaining information confidentiality . It lists religious values, respect for human dignity and international conventions as guidelines used in drafting the bill. The deputy spokesman for the Sudanese Council of Ministers Hatem Hassan Bakhit told reporters that the law will prevent the exploitation of Sudanese citizens or having them fall into the hands of smugglers especially children, women and the elderly as well as workers employed in forced labor who are exposed to various forms of abuse.   
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47260**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47260)

**Syria  
Syria war imperils education of 2.5 million children**More than a fifth of Syria's schools have been destroyed or made unusable in more than two years of conflict, jeopardizing the education of 2.5 million young people, Save The Children aid agency reported on Friday. The civil war in Syria has contributed to a sharp increase over the past year in the number of violent incidents affecting children's education reported worldwide, the agency said. More than 70 percent of 3,600 such incidents in 2012 occurred in Syria, where school buildings were shelled, teachers attacked and children recruited into armed groups, it added. Save The Children said an estimated 3,900 schools in Syria had been destroyed or put out of action by January 2013. "But more recent estimates in April show a very rapid increase in this number, with 22% of the country's 22,000 schools rendered unusable," it said. "The combined effects of conflict have jeopardized the education of 2.5 million school-age children and young people."  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/11/us-syria-crisis-children-idUSBRE96A14G20130711?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/11/us-syria-crisis-children-idUSBRE96A14G20130711?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**Al-Qaeda reportedly kills Syrian rebel commander**An al-Qaeda-linked group has killed a senior commander in the rebel Syrian Free Army (FSA), said an FSA official Friday, an act set to widen rifts between rival moderate and radical groups fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad. Kamal Hamami of the FSA Supreme Military Council was killed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, added FSA spokesman Louay al-Mokdad. "Hamami's killing is a very serious development," al-Mokdad told dpa. "The Supreme Military Council is holding an emergency meeting over the murder." "He was killed by the head of the group Abu Ayman al-Baghdadi who asked one of Hamami's bodyguards to go back and inform members of the council that he has killed Hamami and that they will face the same fate," al-Mokdad added. Hamami was on "a reconnaissance mission" in the Syrian port city of Latakia where he was killed, according to al-Mokdad. Hamami's killing could trigger a serious conflict inside the Syrian opposition between radical Islamist insurgents and moderate rebels.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/11/kamal-hamami-killed-syria-al-qaeda\_n\_3582182.html?utm\_hp\_ref=world**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/11/kamal-hamami-killed-syria-al-qaeda_n_3582182.html?utm_hp_ref=world)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia frees jailed ex-regime figures**

Tunisian authorities early on Thursday released from jail two former figures of the toppled regime who were arrested following the 2011 uprising for abuse of power, the justice ministry said. Mohamed Ghariani, ex-secretary general of the Rally for Constitutional Democracy party of now ousted dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and former interior minister Abdallah Kallel were ordered freed by Tunis Appeals Court, the ministry said. Kallel was arrested in March 2011, just weeks after Ben Ali was ousted, after a group of lawyers lodged an official complaint accusing him of embezzling funds from the now-dissolved ruling party.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-11/223334-tunisia-frees-jailed-ex-regime-figures.ashx#axzz2Yj5mGJPx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-11/223334-tunisia-frees-jailed-ex-regime-figures.ashx#axzz2Yj5mGJPx)

**Yemen**

**UNDP to fund 15 youth projects**

The UNDP initiated the Youth Innovation and Creativity Award in Sana’a on Tuesday, and will reward innovative and creative youth with funds to finance their proposed projects. 15 winners will be selected and awarded sums between $4000 and $20,000. UNDP hopes to encourage youth, aged 18-35, to participate in the competition and to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in the country. The program aims to uncover the capacities and creativity of Yemeni youth and to support the creation of profitable projects.

**Yemen Times -** [**http://www.yementimes.com/en/1693/news/2610/UNDP-to-fund-15-youth-projects.htm**](http://www.yementimes.com/en/1693/news/2610/UNDP-to-fund-15-youth-projects.htm)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**One dead, three wounded in Kabul suicide bombing**A suicide bomb attack targeting police killed one person and wounded three others in the limits of Mirbacha Kot district of Kabul province on Friday police said. The bomber riding a car detonated himself near a police check point in Kohdaman area, killing a civilian and wounding three others. The attack was a carried out in the limits of Mirbacha Kot district on Kabul-Shamal highway. A few days ago, Taliban said they would intensify attacks in the holy month of Ramdan.   
**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/suicide-bomber-targets-police-on-edge-of-kabul-officials\_861779.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/suicide-bomber-targets-police-on-edge-of-kabul-officials_861779.html)

**Pakistan**  
**[Pakistani teenager shot by Taliban comes to UN](http://un.newsedge-web.com/NewsEdge/FullStoryFrame/C47C1178-8E43-4C27-ABD8-D73EA2D4D44C/2.1373602402.02e6030d.0.wKMUbAA" \t "Content)**A new report released to mark the 16th birthday of a Pakistani teenager shot by the Taliban for promoting education for girls says 57 million children around the world are not going to school, and half live in conflict-affected countries. The U.N. education and cultural agency UNESCO and Save the Children released the study ahead of Friday's first public appearance at the United Nations by Malala Yousafzai, who returned to school in March after medical treatment in Britain for injuries she suffered in the October attack. She will address more than 500 young leaders from around the world at a Youth Assembly organized by General Assembly President Vuk Jeremic and U.N. special envoy for global education Gordon Brown, the former British prime minister. The U.N. has declared July 12 — her 16th birthday — as "Malala Day."  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/pakistani-teenager-shot-taliban-19645553**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/pakistani-teenager-shot-taliban-19645553)

TACRO

**Brazil**

**Thousands on nationwide strike block highways in Brazil; Clashes in Rio**

Tens of thousands of workers across Brazil walked off their jobs on Thursday in a mostly peaceful nationwide strike demanding better working conditions and improved public services. Metalworkers, transportation and construction workers as well as teachers and civil servants adhered to the “Day of Struggle” organized by Brazil’s biggest trade unions. Strikers either partially or completely blocked 80 interstate and intercity highways in 18 states. About 2,500 strikers marched in Rio de Janeiro, where some clashed with police, who unleashed tear gas and rubber bullets in response to a few protesters hurling rocks at them. By nightfall, protesters were still gathered in Rio’s center area, and scattered skirmishes with police were reported.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\_americas/workers-on-nationwide-strike-block-highways-in-brazil/2013/07/11/605d751c-ea37-11e2-818e-aa29e855f3ab\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/workers-on-nationwide-strike-block-highways-in-brazil/2013/07/11/605d751c-ea37-11e2-818e-aa29e855f3ab_story.html)

**Chile**

**Thousands protest in nationwide strike in Chile**

Chile's largest labor union called a nationwide strike on Thursday to demand improved labor conditions and tax reform, but officials said only a small percentage of workers participated. Small groups of hooded protesters set up flaming barricades ahead of the strike, blocking morning traffic. They also threw firebombs and torched a public transit bus in the capital Santiago. Police arrested 26 people, but no injuries were reported. The Central Union of Workers condemned the early-morning violence. Students and copper miners later joined thousands of workers in largely peaceful marches along the streets, chanting and waving banners. Interior and Security Minister Andres Chadwick reported that only 6.4 percent of all public workers, or about 10,000 out of 161,000, joined the strike.

**AP -** [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20130711/lt-chile-strike/**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20130711/lt-chile-strike/)

**Colombia  
Displaced Colombians seek to reclaim land**Under 2011 law, Colombians can reclaim land stolen from them, but those returning face threats and violence. In June 2011, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos enacted the Victims and Land Restitution Law, which aims to return millions of hectares of land abandoned or stolen as a result of human rights violations. Pitalito was a pioneer case, and the community decided to return to their land after registering under the law. But according to the Human Rights Watch 2013 World Report, the implementation of the Victims Law has advanced slowly. While the government estimated there were about 2,100 rulings in 2012, as of mid-November that year fewer than 15 cases had been resolved. The report further mentions that "abuses against displaced land claimants and their leaders in recent years - including threats, forced displacements, and killings - have created a climate of fear for those seeking restitution in several areas of the country". At least 45 leaders of the land restitution process were assassinated from 2002 to 2011, according to the 2011 annual report of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.  
**Aljazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/2013/06/2013623123633340561.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/2013/06/2013623123633340561.html)

**Guyana**

**Guyana to stop sharing anti-trafficking efforts**

Guyana's national security minister says the government will no longer provide U.S. authorities with information on anti-trafficking efforts. Clement Rohee says a recent U.S. State Department human trafficking report that criticized Guyana is inaccurate and ignores local efforts to crack down on the problem. He said late Wednesday that officials will stop completing and returning questionnaires to U.S. authorities. His announcement comes a month after the U.S. criticized Guyana for allowing girls and foreign women to be forced into prostitution and relying on child labour.

**AP -** [**http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Guyana+stop+sharing+antitrafficking+efforts+with/8646156/story.html**](http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Guyana+stop+sharing+antitrafficking+efforts+with/8646156/story.html)

**Mexico**

**13 gunmen killed in clash with Mexican soldiers**

Authorities say Mexican soldiers killed 13 gunmen in a clash in the northern state of Zacatecas. Zacatecas state prosecutors' spokesman Jorge Flores says soldiers also seized several automatic rifles and vehicles. Flores said Thursday's clash took place in a remote area of the town of Sombrerete. On of the gunmen survived and told authorities he belongs to the Gulf drug cartel. The state of Zacatecas began seeing a rise in drug violence after the brutal Zetas drug cartel split from the Gulf cartel in 2010 and began pushing west from their home base in northeast Mexico. More recently the state has been a hot spot for violence after the falling out between leaders of the Zetas drug gang and turf battles with other cartels.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/13-gunmen-killed-clash-mexican-soldiers-19644922**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/13-gunmen-killed-clash-mexican-soldiers-19644922)

**Mexico's Popocatepetl erupts**

The Popocatepetl volcano is located 80 km to the southeast of the capital and concerns arose when Mexico's National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED) reported some activity brewing from its roaring crater. Steam, gas and ash reaching up to two km (1.2 miles) high into the sky which led officials to issue a statement warning that a change in activity of the 5,450-metre volcano could provoke big explosions capable of sending incandescent fragments out over considerable distances. The Mexican authorities are keeping a close watch over the ancient volcano of Popocatepetl which is surrounded by some 50,000 residents across 24 towns.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130711104907-7qnx4/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130711104907-7qnx4/?source=hptop)

WCARO

**CAR**

**EU pledges aid to Central Africa Republic, urges donor action**

The European Union is to increase its aid to Central African Republic to tackle a humanitarian crisis gripping the nation since rebels seized power in March. The toppling of former president Francois Bozize by the Seleka rebel coalition plunged the former French colony into chaos. Interim president Michel Djotodia, Seleka's leader, has failed to establish security even in Bangui and humanitarian groups have pulled back many of their staff. Kristalina Georgieva, the EU Commissioner responsible for international cooperation and humanitarian aid, said on Thursday Europe would provide an additional $8 million, bringing its total aid since the start of the year to $20 million.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130711151820-rm0co/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130711151820-rm0co/?source=hptop)

**DR Congo**

**Congolese flee as ADF attacks town**

More than 3,000 refugees from the DRC yesterday entered Uganda after suspected rebels of the Allied Democratic Force (ADF) attacked Kamango Town Council near the DRC-Uganda border. The Bundibugyo District police commander said some of the roads connecting Uganda to the DRC have been cut off and some of the refugees are camping at Bubandi Primary School, but have no shelter, food and clothing, among others. Security along the Uganda-DRC border has been beefed up by both the UPDF and the police. Reports say that the rebels have captured Kamango and abducted a chief and some families in the DRC.

**Daily Monitor -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Congolese-flee-as-ADF-attacks-town/-/688334/1912292/-/view/printVersion/-/j1jlg5z/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Congolese-flee-as-ADF-attacks-town/-/688334/1912292/-/view/printVersion/-/j1jlg5z/-/index.html)

**Mali**

**Governor of flashpoint Mali town leaves after brief visit**The governor of the flashpoint Malian town of Kidal returned to his city on Thursday after more than a yearlong absence but left after a brief visit, as the country prepares for crucial nationwide elections later this month, security sources said. Questioned shortly after his arrival, the governor, Adama Kamissoko, said that the buildings of the governor's administration were "occupied by armed groups" which he did not name. He did not rule out returning to Bamako "before coming back", he said. His visit comes at a time of violent protests in the northeastern rebel stronghold. Although Tuareg separatists have allowed the Malian army to enter Kidal as part of a peace deal ahead of the 28 July vote, the situation on the ground is increasingly tense. Local government has been absent from Kidal for more than a year since the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and allied armed factions linked to Al Qaeda seized the north region. Last week, some 200 Malian soldiers entered Kidal to try and improve security. However, in recent days, supporters and opponents of the Malian army have staged daily demonstrations.  
**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/governor-flashpoint-mali-town-leaves-after-brief-visit?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=feed&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A%20ReliefwebUpdates%20%28ReliefWeb%20-%20Latest%20Updates%29**](http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/governor-flashpoint-mali-town-leaves-after-brief-visit?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A%20ReliefwebUpdates%20%28ReliefWeb%20-%20Latest%20Updates%29)

**Nigeria  
Ceasefire announced amidst deteriorating humanitarian situation**A shaky ceasefire between the Nigerian government and the Islamist militant group Boko Haram has been announced by figures from both sides. Despite the possible reduction in hostilities, the Nigerian government's emergency rule in three states most effected by the conflict will continue. Tanimu Turaki, Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Dialogue and Restoration of Peace in the North-East, announced on radio that “Boko Haram will lay down their arms as part of the agreement so as to end the insurgency”, and that the “Government agreed with the ceasefire". Meanwhile, Imam Muhammadu Marwana, a senior member of Boko Haram, reportedly confirmed the agreement, adding “I appeal to those who lost their loved ones to our activities to forgive us, and on our side we have forgiven all those who committed atrocities against us”. The details of any ceasefire remain uncertain, as do reports of whether a deal has officially been signed yet, and it is worth pointing out that rumours of this type have emerged before evaporating in the past. However, these latest announcements do appear to be more concrete than some previous reports of alleged ceasefires.   
**Think Africa Press -** [**http://thinkafricapress.com/nigeria/state-emergency-jonathan-yobe-borno-adamawa**](http://thinkafricapress.com/nigeria/state-emergency-jonathan-yobe-borno-adamawa)

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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