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GENERAL

**DRC/Rwanda  
Kigali says two mortar bombs fired into Rwanda from DRC**

Rwanda's military spokesman said two mortar bombs were fired into the country from neighbouring DRC on Monday. He said the bombs, which caused no injuries, were fired in mid-afternoon "deliberately" and blamed the DRC army - the FARDC - and the UN force MONUSCO on the grounds they were fired from territory they control. His accusation came amid fierce clashes across the border between the DRC army and M23 rebels, which flared again Sunday around the flashpoint Congolese city of Goma, leaving at least 130 dead.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gWgfy78aD9tEHPNkCWEnsc3Wq9\_w?docId=CNG.8eca1fd7546e37a06b588235c59afa8a.2b1**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gWgfy78aD9tEHPNkCWEnsc3Wq9_w?docId=CNG.8eca1fd7546e37a06b588235c59afa8a.2b1)

**DRC/Uganda**

**Uganda unprepared for influx of DRC refugees**

Some 66,000 Congolese refugees have crossed into Uganda in recent days, following fighting between Ugandan rebel group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and DRC's national army (FARDC). Their arrival has left the Ugandan government and humanitarian agencies struggling to meet the refugees' needs amid funding challenges. "The situation is very dire. It's overwhelming... given the massive arrivals of these refugees, and sudden number of this nature, in an area with very limited preparedness to extend humanitarian assistance," Mohammed Adar, country representative for UNHCR in Uganda, told IRIN.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98417/uganda-unprepared-for-influx-of-drc-refugees**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98417/uganda-unprepared-for-influx-of-drc-refugees)

**Sudan/Nigeria**

**Sudan leader has fled Nigeria**Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir has left Nigeria, a diplomat at his embassy said Tuesday, following demands from human rights activists for the arrest of the man indicted for genocide and war crimes in Darfur. Human rights lawyers filed a suit in the Federal High Court on Monday to try to compel Nigeria's government to arrest al-Bashir. And a civil rights group urgently appealed to the International Criminal Court to refer the government to the U.N. Security Council for allowing the visit. Presidential spokesman Reuben Abati told The Associated Press that al-Bashir had come to attend the African Union summit, and not at Nigeria's invitation. He said Nigeria's action in allowing him to come was in line with instructions from the African Union.   
**AP -** [**http://world.time.com/2013/07/16/diplomat-sudan-leader-has-fled-nigeria/**](http://world.time.com/2013/07/16/diplomat-sudan-leader-has-fled-nigeria/)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Police arrest 30 over anti-government protests**

Turkish police arrested about 30 people in Istanbul on Tuesday after briefly detaining more than 1,000 in a widening crackdown after weeks of violent anti-government protests, lawyers and local media reports said.

An Istanbul prosecutor also rejected the release of detained members of Taksim Solidarity, an umbrella group of activists including trade bodies, political parties and non-governmental organizations that helped organize the demonstrations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/16/us-turkey-protests-idUSBRE96F0MH20130716**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/16/us-turkey-protests-idUSBRE96F0MH20130716)

EAPR

**China**

**Education limited for disabled - HRW**

More than a quarter of Chinese children with disabilities do not get to go to school, while many of those who do are blocked from mainstream institutions or taught by untrained teachers, a human rights group said Tuesday. The report by Human Rights Watch said young Chinese students with disabilities are denied access to regular schools unless they can prove they can adapt to the schools' physical and learning environment, and that accommodations for such students are "little to none." The report sheds light on how China's burgeoning problem of social inequality -- even in education -- applies to people with disabilities.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-education-limited-chinas-disabled-19669522**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-education-limited-chinas-disabled-19669522)

**Myanmar**

**Government to free all political prisoners by year end**

Myanmar President Thein Sein said on Monday that all political prisoners would be freed by the end of the year and that a ceasefire with ethnic groups was possible within weeks. The former junta general's comments, made during his first visit to London, appear to be latest stage in reforms that Thein Sein has made since he took office in 2011. He was also optimistic about ending decades of conflict that have raged between the government and more than a dozen ethnic groups since the country won independence. Thein Sein also promised to take a "zero tolerance approach" to people who "fuel ethnic hatreds" following violence targeting members of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90706-myanmar-to-free-all-political-prisoners-by-year-end**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90706-myanmar-to-free-all-political-prisoners-by-year-end)

**President disbands controversial border force**

Myanmar's president has disbanded a security force accused of rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State. "It is hereby announced that Border Area Immigration Control Headquarters has been abolished," President Thein Sein said in a one-line statement dated 12 July. The border security force, known as Nasaka, consists of officers from the police, military, customs and immigration. Corruption accusations may have been behind the government's decision, said Zaw Aye Maung, a member of parliament for the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, who said the head of the Nasaka was sentenced late last year on corruption charges. Human Rights Watch has implicated the force in abuses against Rohingya, including arbitrary arrest and torture.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130715113632-bse6u/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130715113632-bse6u/?source=hpbreaking)

ESAR

**Zimbabwe**

**Observers call for free, fair Zimbabwe polls**

Regional mediators on Monday called for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe on 31 July as problems with early voting sent warning signals for the key presidential and parliamentary polls. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) urged political players, security forces and the election commission to "exercise restraint and avoid frustrating voters". "Voters must have unfettered access. That's what will make the elections free and fair. The conduct must go hand in hand with discipline of the highest order," Bernard Membe, who is heading the SADC's election observer mission, told a press conference.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130715/observers-call-free-fair-zimbabwe-polls**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130715/observers-call-free-fair-zimbabwe-polls)

MENA

**Across MENA  
Egypt says Syria visa rules only a temporary measure**

Egypt's new visa rules for Syrians imposed after the army's removal of President Mohamed Morsi are only a temporary security measure and will not erode Egyptian support for the Syrian revolution, state media said on Monday. Last week, Egypt introduced visa requirements for Syrians after local media and some officials accused Syrian Islamists of joining deadly clashes between Morsi's supporters and the military that ousted him earlier this month. Egypt has since turned back several flights from Syria carrying hundreds of passengers and deported Syrians who arrived via other countries at Cairo airport, according to UNHCR.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/15/uk-syria-crisis-egypt-idUKBRE96E0IM20130715**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/15/uk-syria-crisis-egypt-idUKBRE96E0IM20130715)

**Egypt**

**Wave of attacks on Copts, state failing to act: NGO**

Egypt's Christians have been targeted in a wave of attacks since the ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, and the state is failing to protect them, an NGO said Monday. Sectarian violence since the latest political upheaval in Egypt began has killed four Coptic Christians in Luxor governorate, with churches elsewhere torched and looted, said the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. "What is disturbing is the failure of the security apparatus to act -- which at times looks like collusion -- to protect citizens and their property who are being targeted on the basis of their religion," the EIPR's Ishak Ibrahim said in a statement.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130715/wave-attacks-egypt-copts-state-failing-act**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130715/wave-attacks-egypt-copts-state-failing-act)

**Seven killed, over 250 wounded in Cairo clashes overnight**Seven people were killed and 261 wounded in Cairo when supporters of Mohamed Mursi clashed with the deposed president's opponents and security forces overnight, the head of Egypt's emergency services said on Tuesday. Mohamed Sultan told Reuters two people had been killed at a bridge in central Cairo and five more in the capital's Giza district. Egyptian authorities have arrested 401 people  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/16/us-egypt-protests-deaths-idUSBRE96F0BK20130716**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/16/us-egypt-protests-deaths-idUSBRE96F0BK20130716)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130716105428-vqkgx**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130716105428-vqkgx)

**Army move against Mursi 'legitimate' -- Egypt envoy**   
Egypt's UN ambassador in Geneva, Wafaa Bassim, summoned reporters to her country's UN mission to spread the message that the "second revolution" on 3 July was justified by ousted President Muhammad Mursi's failure to listen to the Egyptian people. "What we are trying to do is send a message of reassurance," Bassim said. The Egyptian ambassador said the military's toppling of Mursi was "legitimate" despite his presidential election win on June 30, 2012. Bassim emphasized in particular that the military had installed only a transitional government, and only to end the popular unrest. Bassim said the military-backed government's transition plan should take no more than "eight to nine months" to complete.   
**Arab News -** [**http://www.arabnews.com/news/458168**](http://www.arabnews.com/news/458168)

**Syria**

**Nine Syrians 'executed' at checkpoint: NGO**At least nine Syrians, including a child, were executed by regime forces at a checkpoint in Damascus province, a watchdog said on Tuesday. The nine were "executed" at a military checkpoint in the area, the group said, citing local activists. In Homs province, members of a pro-regime militia killed seven members of a reconciliation committee in the village of Hajar Abyad, the Observatory said.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130716-nine-syrians-executed-checkpoint-ngo**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130716-nine-syrians-executed-checkpoint-ngo)

**UN envoy in Syria talks as child toll mounts**Leila Zerrougui, The UN secretary general's special representative on children and armed conflict, has arrived in Syria for talks as concern mounted over the rising child death toll in the bloody two-year conflict. Six children were among 29 people killed in a devastating army bombardment of five villages in the northwest as residents prepared to break the daytime fast observed during Ramadan, a watchdog reported. Leila Zerrougui will spend three days in Syria, the UN said. She is to meet with government officials, UN representatives and NGOs, as part of a tour that will also take her to neighbouring Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, the main host countries for the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees who have fled the conflict.   
**AFP -** [**http://za.news.yahoo.com/un-envoy-syria-talks-child-toll-mounts-022744788.html**](http://za.news.yahoo.com/un-envoy-syria-talks-child-toll-mounts-022744788.html)

**Syria pro-regime militia kills reconciliation team: NGO**Members of a Syrian pro-regime militia gunned down seven Sunni men working on reconciliation in the central province of Homs overnight, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Tuesday. "Seven men belonging to a reconciliation committee, including two retired officers and the imam of a mosque in the town of Zara... were killed yesterday by members of the People's Committee," the group said, referring to a pro-regime armed group. Regime-authorised reconciliation teams have sprung up across Syria, working on grassroots mediation and negotiated truces in various areas. The team targeted on Monday had successfully mediated before, the Observatory said, and was working to smooth ties between Sunnis and Alawites in religiously-mixed Homs.   
**Reuters -** <http://www.headnine.com/world/2013/07/16/pro-assad-militia-kills-syrian-reconciliation-team_s_18767320.html>

**Yemen**

**UN launches $700 million appeal to help over 7 million Yemenis meet basic needs**The UN has appealed for $702 million to help more than 7 million Yemenis gain access to food, clean water, healthcare and other vital services, as two years of unrest and instability have led to a "near collapse" of basic services in the country. "Conflict and instability elsewhere in the region and the ongoing political transition in Yemen have overshadowed the humanitarian crisis," said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Ould Cheikh Ahmed, adding that there can be no long-term stability without addressing the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people. More than 13 million people over half the population are still in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Food insecurity and malnutrition persist in the country, as well as outbreaks of fatal diseases including measles. Maternal mortality also remains high at 365 for every 100,000 live births.   
**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45412&Cr=yemen&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45412&Cr=yemen&Cr1)=

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan legislators approve new election law**

Afghan legislators say they have approved a law to govern next year's presidential and provincial council elections, a key step in holding the polls. The law needs to be signed by President Hamid Karzai. Another law regulating the responsibilities of the electoral management bodies was passed over the weekend. Karzai also needs to sign off on that one. Completion of the two laws would clear the way for the elections on 5 April next year. Karzai, whose second five-year term ends next year, is not allowed to seek a third.

**AP -** [**http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/07/15/afghan-legislators-approve-new-election-law/qCZy2Vwu9KNPXB0Reu8HAK/story.html**](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/07/15/afghan-legislators-approve-new-election-law/qCZy2Vwu9KNPXB0Reu8HAK/story.html)

**Official says bomb kills 2 Afghans in east**An Afghan official says a bomb planted on a bicycle in eastern Nangarhar province has killed two civilians and wounded three others. Provincial spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai says the incident took place early Tuesday on the outskirts of Jalalabad, Nangarhar's capital. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but most such bombings are carried out by the Taliban.   
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/official-says-bomb-kills-2-afghans-east-070648766.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/official-says-bomb-kills-2-afghans-east-070648766.html)

**Bangladesh**

**Four Bangladeshis die in latest Azam unrest**

Police have killed two people when they fired on demonstrators marching in southwest Bangladesh during a day-long nationwide strike in protest against the conviction of former Islamist party leader Ghulam Azam for war crimes. District deputy police chief Tajul Islam said on Tuesday that thousands of protesters from Bangladesh's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, rampaged with sticks and machetes, as well as throwing homemade, bombs in Satkhira district.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/201371653425808336.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2013/07/201371653425808336.html)

**India**

**Nearly 6,000 missing a month after devastating floods**

India declared on Monday that nearly 6,000 people were missing a month after flash floods ravaged large parts of its northern state of Uttarakhand, but stopped short of saying they were presumed dead. The figure of 5,748, based on tallies of missing persons from around the country, was the first official estimate following weeks in which the numbers of dead and missing fluctuated wildly from a few hundred to several thousand. Their families will now be eligible for financial relief, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna told a news conference, adding that his government would pay 150,000 rupees ($2,500) to families in the state, besides compensation from the federal government.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130715115221-whrtk/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130715115221-whrtk/?source=hpbreaking)

**Police arrest eight for gang-rape of schoolgirls**

Indian police arrested eight suspects on Tuesday over the gang-rape of four schoolgirls abducted from their convent boarding house in the country's east, officials said. A group of men armed with knives barged into the hostel Sunday night and kidnapped the girls aged between 12 and 14, before assaulting them in a nearby forest in the tribal state of Jharkhand, a police officer said. India faces intense scrutiny over its efforts to curb violence against women following the fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in New Delhi last December which sparked major protests.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/india-police-arrest-eight-men-gang-rape-four-schoolgirls-20130716**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/asia/story/india-police-arrest-eight-men-gang-rape-four-schoolgirls-20130716)

**Pakistan**

**Gunmen kill four Shiite Muslims in Quetta city**

Gunmen opened fire on a vehicle in southwest Pakistan on Monday, killing four Shiites, police said. The incident took place in the Masjid Road area of Quetta city, the main town of insurgency hit southwestern Baluchistan province, where a recent surge in sectarian unrest has killed scores of Shiites. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a militant group officially banned by the government in 2002 usually claims responsibility for attacks on Shiite Muslims.Baluchistan is a flashpoint for sectarian violence between Pakistan's majority Sunni Muslims and minority Shiites, who account for 20 percent of the country's 180 million population.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90683-gunmen-kkill-four-shiite-muslims-in-sw-pakistan**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/90683-gunmen-kkill-four-shiite-muslims-in-sw-pakistan)

**Presidential elections to be held on 6 August**

Pakistan will hold the next presidential election on 6 August, two days before the end of the term of incumbent President Asif Ali Zardari. Chief Election Commissioner Fakhruddin G Ibrahim approved the proposed date for the poll, officials were quoted as saying by the media on Tuesday. Zardari, currently on a private visit to Dubai and London, will not contest the next presidential election, his spokesman Farhatullah Babar said on Monday. Babar also scotched rumours that Zardari will not return to Pakistan before the end of his term.

**PTI -** [**https://www.niticentral.com/2013/07/16/pakistan-to-hold-presidential-election-on-sep-6-104849.html**](https://www.niticentral.com/2013/07/16/pakistan-to-hold-presidential-election-on-sep-6-104849.html)

TACR

**Mexico**

**Leader of Mexico's Zetas drug cartel captured**

A US federal official says Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, head of the brutal Zetas drug cartel, has been captured in northern Mexico. Trevino Morales, known as "Z-40," was captured in Nuevo Laredo, in the biggest victory in President Enrique Pena Nieto's efforts against cartels, according to Mexican media. Trevino Morales took control of the Zetas following the death of group founder Heriberto Lazcano in October 2012.

**AP -** [**http://www.wfla.com/story/22847507/leader-of-mexicos-zetas-drug-cartel-captured**](http://www.wfla.com/story/22847507/leader-of-mexicos-zetas-drug-cartel-captured)

WCAR

**Across WCAR  
Worrying surge in piracy in Gulf of Guinea**Well-armed pirates are widening their area of operations and using new strategies in a "worrying surge" of attacks, kidnappings and armed robberies in West Africa's oil-rich Gulf of Guinea, an international piracy monitoring agency said Monday. The London-based International Maritime Bureau published figures for the first six months of the year indicating that while piracy is down in the rest of the world, the Gulf of Guinea has overtaken Somalia as the world's new hotspot. Some experts are calling for a coalition of naval forces to patrol the strategic area, similar to the one that gets credit for the decreasing number of attacks off the coast of Somalia.   
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/report-worrying-surge-piracy-gulf-guinea-115210531.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/report-worrying-surge-piracy-gulf-guinea-115210531.html)

**CAR**

**Leader says security improving**

The transitional leader of CAR says the security situation is improving in his country, despite reports to the contrary from aid groups. During a visit to Burkina Faso on Monday, Michel Djotodia said the biggest security threat came from the Lord's Resistance Army. Djotodia became interim leader in March after his Seleka rebel coalition deposed former President Francois Bozize. Human Rights Watch has accused Seleka of destroying dozens of villages since February, and aid groups have accused the international community of ignoring the humanitarian crisis in the nation of 4.6 million. Djotodia made no mention of Seleka abuses but said peace had been restored to the capital, Bangui.

**AP -** [**http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c-african-republic-leader-says-security-improving**](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c-african-republic-leader-says-security-improving)

**DR Congo**

**Army helicopters pound M23 rebels near Goma**

Congolese government forces supported by helicopters attacked M23 rebel positions near the eastern city of Goma on Tuesday in a third day of heavy fighting that has forced hundreds of villagers to flee their homes and raised tensions with Rwanda. The clashes have also focused attention on the role of the UN, which is deploying a new force with a mandate to attack rebel groups in eastern DRC. The UN has warned it would block any attack on Goma. A Reuters reporter in Mutaho, some 7km northeast of Goma, saw three army attack helicopters bombard rebel positions in the town of Kibati, 4 km further north of Goma. Rebels and government troops traded mortar fire on Monday close to the northern and western outskirts of Goma. The UN said that a shell fell on Tuesday 100 metres (yards) from Goma airport, with no victims reported.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130716125559-b89ao/?source%20=%20hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130716125559-b89ao/?source%20=%20hpbreaking)

**UN threatens 'lethal force' against rebels**

The UN said Monday it is ready to use "lethal force" to stop a rebel advance on DRC's city of Goma after major new clashes erupted. The DRC government said at least 130 people, including 10 soldiers, were killed in new fighting with M23 rebels on the outskirts of Goma in the east of the country on Sunday. The UN has deployed a 3,000 strong intervention brigade in eastern DR Congo in recent weeks. The joint South African, Tanzanian, Malawian brigade has an unprecedently strong UNSC mandate to take on armed groups. The DRC "mission has put its troops on high alert and stands ready to take any necessary measures including the using of lethal force to protect civilians," UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said. "Any attempt by the M23 to advance toward Goma will be considered a direct threat to civilians," he added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130715/un-threatens-lethal-force-against-dr-congo-rebels**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130715/un-threatens-lethal-force-against-dr-congo-rebels)

**Guinea**

**10 killed in ethnic violence**

At least 10 people have been killed and dozens wounded in ethnic clashes in Guinea, a local medic told AFP on Tuesday. Clashes broke out in the southern forest region early Monday when petrol station guards from the Guerze tribe in the town of Koule accused an ethnic Konianke youth of stealing before torturing and beating him to death. The violence spread to the nearby provincial capital N'Zerekore, 570km southeast of Conakry, leaving dozens injured and several homes destroyed. "There are at least 10 dead, including two this morning and three last night," said François Lamah, a doctor from N'Zerekore, adding that there were over 60 wounded. Lamah said hospital workers had not yet begun to establish an accurate death toll, as so many had been killed.

**AFP -** [**http://news.msn.co.nz/worldnews/8690875/10-die-in-guinea-ethnic-violence-report**](http://news.msn.co.nz/worldnews/8690875/10-die-in-guinea-ethnic-violence-report)

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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