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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Former Darfur refugees scraping by in Chad - UNICEF mention**

Thousands of former Chadian refugees who fled conflict in their country between 2004 and 2009 for Darfur in Sudan, have been returning home in the past few months following sporadic inter-communal violence. These Chadian returnees, alongside thousands of new Darfuri refugees, started crossing into southeastern Chad in January, fleeing a conflict over gold mines in northern Darfur between the Binheissin and Rizeigat ethnic groups, according to UNHCR. Another wave later crossed into Chad fleeing inter-communal violence between the Salamat and Misseriya ethnic groups in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur. An influx of 30,448 Darfur refugees and 20,640 Chadian returnees (former refugees from Chad in Darfur) has been recorded in Tissi in southeastern Chad in 2013, according to a report by OCHA. The region the returnees are seeking refuge in, close to Darfur and northeastern CAR, lacks basic infrastructure and was until recently a no-go zone for aid workers. UNICEF is working alongside MSF and other partners and has been present in Tissi since April.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98639/former-darfur-refugees-scraping-by-in-chad**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98639/former-darfur-refugees-scraping-by-in-chad)

**UNHCR condemns killing in Eastern DRC, seeing new displacement into Burundi**

UNHCR joins other UN agencies in condemning the killing of civilians during fighting this past weekend between the Congolese Army (FARDC) and the M23 rebel group around Goma, the capital of North Kivu in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). At least three people were killed and five others wounded on Saturday morning (24 August) when a shell landed in Ndosho, a suburb of Goma. Goma is packed with civilians because more than 150,000 people have been displaced towards the city since 2012. Another shell fell Saturday near the Mugunga 3 camp, which shelters more than 14,000 internally displaced people. On 22 August, numerous shells landed in residential areas of Goma, killing at least four people and wounding 15 - all civilians. We remind all parties to the conflict that indiscriminate or deliberate attacks against civilians are war crimes. Civilians must not be targeted. Elsewhere in eastern DRC, we are seeing a flaring of a longstanding conflict in the Ruzizi Plain, on the border of South Kivu and Burundi. Conflict there re-erupted in April 2012, but has sent 1,500 asylum-seekers into Burundi over the last 12 days. Asylum-seekers, fleeing the Sange, Mutalule, and Rwanena areas of the Ruzizi Plain, tell us that unidentified armed people killed eight people and seriously wounded many more.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130827125903-rc2kf/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130827125903-rc2kf/?source=search)

**UN says will contact US over spying report**

The UN said on Monday it plans to contact the US over a report that the US National Security Agency bugged its New York headquarters and warned that countries are expected to respect the world body's diplomatic inviolability. Citing secret US documents obtained by fugitive former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, Germany's Der Spiegel reported on Sunday that the US succeeded in gaining access to the internal UN video conferencing system in 2012. Der Spiegel also said the EU and the UN's Vienna-based nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, were among those targeted by US intelligence.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-usa-security-nsa-un-20130825,0,5958139.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-usa-security-nsa-un-20130825,0,5958139.story)

**Cyprus does not expect UK base to play a major role in Syria action**

Cyprus' foreign minister reported that he did not expect a British airbase on the island to play a major role in any military strike against Syria. British newspapers have speculated that RAF Akrotiri, which lies on the southern tip of Cyprus, could be used. A spokesperson for Britain's bases in Cyprus said there had been no upsurge in flight activity at the facility. "I have the impression that the British bases won't play any primary role.... because they are not needed but we will have to see," the Foreign Minister reported. He said he had received a pledge "there would not be any surprises" from countries involved in any action against Syria. Britain maintains two military bases in Cyprus, which lies less than 100 kilometers west of Syria at its closest point.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/27/us-cyprus-britain-syria-idUSBRE97Q06S20130827**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/27/us-cyprus-britain-syria-idUSBRE97Q06S20130827)

CEE/CIS

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Amnesty slams UN 'failure' to probe missing issue**

Amnesty International denounced on 27 August what it called the UN mission in Kosovo's (UNMIK) failure to investigate the fate of civilians, mostly ethnic Serbs, still missing after the 1998-1999 conflict there. "UNMIK's failure to investigate what constituted a widespread, as well as a systematic, attack on a civilian population and, potentially, crimes against humanity, has contributed to the climate of impunity prevailing in Kosovo," reported Amnesty International's expert on Kosovo. In its latest report to be presented ahead of a UN Security Council debate on Kosovo on 29 August, the rights group said some 150 complaints have been filed by relatives of the missing -- mostly ethnic minority Serbs -- claiming that UNMIK had failed to "investigate the abduction and subsequent murder of their relatives."

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jS3ZGSha3FfIRO5zqdLW-s\_BGy2g?docId=CNG.032a338f2b4401f0b20b8d08436d5125.01&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jS3ZGSha3FfIRO5zqdLW-s_BGy2g?docId=CNG.032a338f2b4401f0b20b8d08436d5125.01&hl=en)

EAPRO

**Cambodia**

**Probe vote or face protests**

Cambodia opposition leader Sam Rainsy told thousands of supporters Monday that his party will stage massive protests around the country unless an independent committee begins investigating alleged irregularities in last month's election. The rally of more than 10,000 people in the capital Phnom Penh took place as time is beginning to run out for a compromise over the results of the 28 July polls, which are being challenged by Sam Rainsy's Cambodia National Rescue Party. Official results give PM Hun Sen's Cambodian People Party 68 National Assembly seats against 55 for the Cambodia National Rescue Party. Sam Rainsy says his party would have won 63 seats if the election was fair. The state National Election Committee is expected to ratify the results by 8 September. Sam Rainsy said the protests would be held before the ratification unless an independent committee to scrutinize the election process is established.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-opposition-probe-vote-face-protests-20068423**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-opposition-probe-vote-face-protests-20068423)

**Myanmar**

**Calm returns to violence-scarred town**

A tense calm returned Monday to a Myanmar town that was ripped apart by sectarian violence, leaving hundreds homeless after Buddhist mobs tore through the small, winding streets torching Muslim-owned houses and stores. Authorities said they had arrested 12 suspects, and security forces were guarding the mosque in Htan Gone where some of the victims sought refuge late Saturday and early Sunday. "We spent the whole night cowering at the back of the mosque," said 70-year-old Daw Tin Shwe, adding that police did not help them.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/calm-returns-violence-scarred-myanmar-town-20066844**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/calm-returns-violence-scarred-myanmar-town-20066844)

**Philippines**

**Flood victims still in need**

One week after heavy rains triggered large-scale flooding across much of Manila, and surrounding coastal areas, officials are still struggling to assist tens of thousands in need. Torrential rain brought on by Tropical Storm Trami pounded the island of Luzon from 18 August, dumping over two months of rain in a matter of days and inundating six regions, including Manila. Roads were turned into rivers, as the mega city of 12 million ground to a halt. Schools were shut for a week, and government offices and private businesses were closed, adding to the economic cost of the disaster. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in Manila, 25 people have died from the flooding, while 2.9 million have been affected. As of 26 August, more than 78,000 people are scattered across 359 evacuation centres, mostly schools, while more than 231,000 are staying with family and friends.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98636/philippine-flood-victims-still-in-need**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98636/philippine-flood-victims-still-in-need)

ESAR

**Somalia**

**Puntland criticises planned national conference in Mogadishu**

The Puntland regional government Sunday (August 25th) criticised a national conference organised by the Somali federal government planned for September 2nd-6th in Mogadishu. The conference, Vision 2016: Transitioning Towards Democracy, will take place in advance of the New Deal for Somalia conference in Brussels on September 16th.The Puntland administration said in statement said that the conference "reflects the subversive political agenda of the federal government of Somalia, aiming to marginalise the states and pursue a collision course between the centre (the government) and the periphery (the states)". Puntland suspended relations with the federal government as of August 5th. Meanwhile, Spokesman for Puntland's Civil Society Coalition Dahir Omar accused the region's President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole of hindering the ongoing Jubbaland peace talks in Addis Ababa by coercing Jubbaland regional presidential claimant Ahmed Mohamed Islam Madobe not to sign peace agreements with the government, Somalia's Radio Dalsan reported Sunday.

**All Africa-** [**http://allafrica.com/stories/201308270157.html**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201308270157.html)

**Juba residents protest over deteriorating security**

Hundreds of residents in the South Sudan’s capital, Juba on Sunday took to the streets in protest against the rapidly deteriorating security situation.The demonstration followed the killing of two police officers by unknown assailants in Nyakuron West, a Juba suburb on Saturday. South Sudan police spokesperson, James Mande, confirmed the killing of the two officers, one of whom was attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). “Some criminals riding on a boda-boda (motorcycle) stormed the residents of the two officers in Nyakuron West and open fire on them before fleeing,” Mande told Sudan Tribune by phone Monday. The protest, he said, was sparked off by angry relatives of the deceased, who were later joined by other Juba residents who all decried the rising insecurity levels in the country. Mande described the killing as “unusual”, but said police had stepped up efforts to contain relative peace and stability in the city. “We have boosted our patrols in areas within Juba and its surroundings. As I speak now, the situation is calm and back to life is back to normal”, he added. This latest incident comes less than a week after two brothers were murdered in Hai Tarawa, another Juba suburb, prompting another wave of protests from citizens.

**Sudan Tribune-** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47795**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47795)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Iran warns against strike on Syria after gas attack**

Iran warned on 27 August against foreign military intervention in Syria, saying the resulting conflict would engulf the region. Iran, which is supporting Assad against rebels seeking to overthrow him, has said rebels were behind the suspected attack and said that the West was using it as a pretext to intervene in Syria. "We want to strongly warn against any military attack in Syria. There will definitely be perilous consequences for the region," the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson reported. "These complications and consequences will not be restricted to Syria. It will engulf the whole region."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130827071450-73aht**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130827071450-73aht)

**Iraq**

**Attacks kill 11 people**

Attacks on Monday killed 11 people in Iraq, officials said, including six who were snatched from their homes and shot dead, the latest in spiralling violence. Gunmen dressed in police uniforms stormed several houses in the predominantly Sunni town of Tarmiyah, just north of Baghdad, claiming to be carrying out a security operation, police and an interior ministry official said. They kidnapped six men and left the area. Also on Monday, gunmen killed two prison guards and two civilians in separate attacks in northern Nineveh province, while a roadside bomb killed another south of Baghdad, security and medical sources said. Another blast in the southern city of Basra, which typically sees lower levels of violence than elsewhere in the country, left one person wounded. The attack apparently targeted a branch of the Sunni Endowment, the foundation charged with managing Sunni Muslim religious sites.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/six-men-snatched-killed-north-baghdad-113023807.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/six-men-snatched-killed-north-baghdad-113023807.html)

**Court clears path for Maliki third term as PM**

Iraq's highest court on Monday overturned controversial term limits on senior posts, clearing the way for PM Nuri al-Maliki to chase a third term in elections next year. The decision, confirmed by multiple MPs and officials, comes with parliament considering a new election law ahead of legislative polls due to be held in April, Iraq's first general election since 2010. The federal supreme court ruled that because the law passed by MPs in January originated in parliament, it was unconstitutional, based on previous judicial rulings that have argued laws must be first proposed by Iraq's cabinet.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/95603-iraq-court-clears-path-for-maliki-third-term-as-pm**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/95603-iraq-court-clears-path-for-maliki-third-term-as-pm)

**State of Palestine**

**Peace meet cancelled over deaths**

Peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators expected to take place Monday were cancelled after Israeli security forces shot dead three Palestinians in West Bank clashes, a Palestinian official said. "The meeting that was to take place in Jericho … today was cancelled because of the Israeli crime committed in Qalandiya today," the official said, referring to the refugee camp where the clashes erupted before dawn. He did not set a new date. "What happened today in Qalandiya shows the real intentions of the Israeli government," Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina, said as reports of the shooting started to emerge. He called on the US administration to "take serious and quick steps" to prevent the collapse of peace efforts.

**AFP -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1038494/peace-meet-cancelled-over-deaths-palestinian-official**](http://dawn.com/news/1038494/peace-meet-cancelled-over-deaths-palestinian-official)

**Sudan**

**Gunmen hold two Red Cross staff in Sudan's Darfur**

Gunmen in Sudan's troubled Darfur region were holding two employees of the Red Cross on Tuesday but six others have been freed, a spokesman for the organisation said. "Two of the colleagues, along with two of their trucks, have still not been released," Rafiullah Qureshi, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sudan, told AFP. He said a team of eight Sudanese ICRC staff were detained by "unknown gunmen" on Monday as they travelled between Nertiti and Zalingei in Central Darfur state. "Six of the team members have been released," Qureshi said. "They are all fine." The staff were returning from a mission to provide first aid training, repair hand pumps and offer other assistance.

**AFP-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/gunmen-hold-two-red-cross-staff-sudans-darfur-095926137.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/gunmen-hold-two-red-cross-staff-sudans-darfur-095926137.html)

**Four peacekeepers missing in Darfur flood**

Four peacekeepers are missing in Sudan's troubled Darfur region after a flash flood hit while they escorted an aid mission, UNAMID said on Monday. "A UNAMID rescue team from El Geneina, West Darfur, found two peacekeepers alive while a search is ongoing to locate the other four," an official of UNAMID reported. UNAMID did not release the nationality of the troops involved. The six were swept away "by a powerful current" while escorting WFP to Misterei, about 50km southwest of El Geneina, the West Darfur state capital near Chad, the official said requesting anonymity. "The incident occurred while the peacekeepers attempted to pull out their truck which was stuck in the mud of a river valley", the official added. Floods across Sudan this month have killed about 50 people and affected more than 500,000, according to government figures. WFP spokeswoman Amor Almagro said that the agency's five Sudanese and two foreign staffers are all safe. They were going to monitor WFP projects in Misterei, where the organisation gives food assistance to about 10,900 people, she said.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23848897**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23848897)

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/95605-unamid-four-peacekeepers-missing-in-sudan-s-darfur-flood**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/95605-unamid-four-peacekeepers-missing-in-sudan-s-darfur-flood)

**Hundreds of thousands affected by heavy rains and floods**

Weeks of heavy rains across Sudan have triggered flash floods, affecting as many as 530,000 people since the beginning of August, according to Government estimates. At least 74,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed by the rapidly rising waters. The area surrounding Khartoum has been hardest hit, with witharound 180,000 people affected. Government and aid officials have already raised concerns that stagnating water in and around the city could lead to outbreaks of disease – a situation the health ministry and WHO are closely monitoring. For now, with more rains expected in the coming days, household supplies, shelter, and fresh water have been identified as immediate priorities for families affected by flooding. The Government of Sudan is leading and coordinating the overall response. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society have appealed for approximately $990,000 to assist 35,000 people.

**OCHA -** [**http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/sudan-hundreds-thousands-affected-heavy-rains-and-floods**](http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/sudan-hundreds-thousands-affected-heavy-rains-and-floods)

**Syria**

**Syria warns West amid growing talk of military strike**

Syria's foreign minister struck a defiant tone Tuesday amid growing international calls for a military response to the country's suspected use of chemical weapons, denying his nation is hindering inspectors and warning Western leaders against an attack. "Syria is not easy to swallow," Foreign Minister Walid Moallem said Tuesday at a news conference. "We have the materials to defend ourselves. We will surprise others." Opinion: For U.S., Syria is truly a problem from hell. British PM David Cameron's office recalled lawmakers from their summer vacation Tuesday to vote on a response to the alleged chemical attack. His office also said the country's military was making contingency plans for a Syrian operation, joining U.S. officials who said Monday that President Barack Obama's administration was evaluating options for a military response to the suspected use of chemical agents against the Syrian rebel stronghold of Ghouta.

**CNN-** [**http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war/**](http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war/)

**Rebels cut army's supply lines to Aleppo**

Syrian rebels on 26 August cut the army's only supply route to the northern province of Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. "After heavy fighting since 25 August evening, the rebels took the strategic area of Khanasser... situated on the only road linking Aleppo to central Syria, cutting the army's military reinforcements and food" route to the province, the activist network said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Aug-26/228688-syria-rebels-cut-armys-supply-lines-to-aleppo-activists.ashxaxzz2d4gf36CY**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Aug-26/228688-syria-rebels-cut-armys-supply-lines-to-aleppo-activists.ashxaxzz2d4gf36CY)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia blames 'terrorist' Ansar al-Sharia for killings**

Tunisia has declared Ansar al-Sharia a terrorist organization after obtaining proof it killed two secular politicians and several soldiers, Prime Minister Ali Larayedh said on Tuesday. Ansar al-Sharia is the most radical Islamist group to emerge in Tunisia since secular autocrat Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali was toppled in 2011. Its attacks have posed a challenge to the authority of the moderate Islamist-led government. "We have discovered proof that the Ansar group is responsible for the assassinations of Chokri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi and the attacks at Mount Chaambi," Larayedh told reporters.

**Reuters-** [**http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-blames-ansar-al-sharia-killings-calls-terrorist-113825091.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-blames-ansar-al-sharia-killings-calls-terrorist-113825091.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Taliban kill 12 civilians, aid workers**

Afghan officials say insurgents have shot and killed 12 civilians, including six aid workers working on government projects, in two separate incidents. The media adviser for the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation, says the bodies of six people were found in the Gulran district of Herat province. He says the six were kidnapped by the Taliban and killed after negotiations failed. He reported that five worked for an international non-governmental organization and one worked for the ministry. The spokesperson for Paktia province, said six unidentified civilians were found on 27 August by a roadside.

**AP -** [**http://www.khou.com/news/world/221270491.html**](http://www.khou.com/news/world/221270491.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/27/us-afghanistan-taliban-idUSBRE97Q08Q20130827**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/27/us-afghanistan-taliban-idUSBRE97Q08Q20130827)

**India**

**Maoist rebels kill four border police**

At least four members of India's paramilitary border police were killed on 27 August in an ambush by Maoist rebels in the eastern state of Orissa, news reports said. The Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were travelling in three vehicles in Orissa's Kodaput district when the rebels detonated a landmine, NDTV news channel reported, citing police. The rebels then exchanged fire with the security forces for 10 to 15 minutes, but fled before time police reinforcements arrived.

**DPA -** [**http://www.ann7.com/article/2540-2708201327082013maoist-rebels-kill-four-border-police-in-india.html**](http://www.ann7.com/article/2540-2708201327082013maoist-rebels-kill-four-border-police-in-india.html)

**Sri Lanka**

**Monks protest UN rights chief’s visit**

Buddhist monks led protests in the Sri Lankan capital on Monday against the UN’s top rights official, who began a fact-finding mission to the country following concerns about war crimes. Dozens of monks and pro-government activists staged the noisy demonstration outside UN offices, accusing the international community of drumming up false allegations of war crimes in 2009 during the final months of a separatist conflict. The activists vowed to stage more protests if UN rights official Navi Pillay criticised Sri Lanka during her weeklong mission, which they say would damage the country emerging from decades of ethnic war. “We will not hesitate to muster the protest of the entire citizenry against the UN if attempts are made to fabricate diabolical lies against Sri Lanka,” the activists said in a petition.

**AFP -** [**http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/sri-lanka-monks-protest-un-rights-chief-s-visit-1.1224119**](http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/sri-lanka-monks-protest-un-rights-chief-s-visit-1.1224119)

TACRO

**Mexico**

**Mudslides and flash flooding kill 14 people**

More than a dozen people have died in eastern Mexico, in landslides triggered by heavy rain caused by tropical depression Fernand. Thirteen people were killed when mud engulfed their homes on hillsides in Veracruz state. Another man drowned after being swept away by fast-flowing floodwaters in Oaxaca. Fernand made landfall near the city of Veracruz on 26 August and weakened as it moved north-west. The Veracruz Governor has asked the federal government to declare an emergency in 92 municipalities, so they can receive recovery funds. The Veracruz Civil Protection Director reported that almost 300 people had been moved to shelters. Officials said damage had affected 10% of highways and major roads in Oaxaca. The US National Hurricane Center said Fernand had packed winds of 85km/h when it made landfall, but weakened quickly once it hit land. Fernand, which had started off as a tropical storm before weakening to a tropical depression, was the fifth named storm of this year's Atlantic hurricane season. The season runs from 1 June to 1 November.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23848232**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23848232)

**Peru**

**Snowstorm cuts off access to 12,000 families in Peru**

Peruvian officials urged the central government to provide aid to some 12,000 families in southern Peru, after a two-day snowstorm cut off access to the high-altitude area. Carabaya, a province located at 1,540 km southeast of Lima and 5,000 meters above sea level, has been completely isolated since a meter of snow and ice blocked highways connecting the community with the outside world. The mayor of Carabaya province, in the Puno region, called on the central government to send basic goods, including food, coats and medicine, saying children and the elderly were suffering the most from the frigid temperatures, according to local media reports. Peru's high-altitude communities, such as Carabaya, are struggling through a harsh winter season that has seen several deaths due to respiratory ailments and economic damage to local crops and animal stocks.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/wn/newsworld.php?id=972929**](http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/wn/newsworld.php?id=972929)

WCARO

**DR Congo**

**EU urges rebels to lay down arms in the east**

The EU on Monday roundly condemned the outbreak of fresh fighting in DRC and called on rebels behind the clashes to urgently lay down their arms. "We forcefully condemn the resumption of fighting that broke out 21 August near Goma after the shelling by the M23 movement of parts of Goma," said a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton. "Attacks against civilians and troops in MONUSCO (the UN peacekeeping mission) cannot be tolerated," the EU spokesman, Sebastien Brabant, said in a statement. "We call on all sides for restraint." "It is urgent that the M23 and armed groups lay down their arms," she added.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iwTp4TpmrBanpQkvaW\_Eh2JI7y2A?docId=CNG.03d45342ac8babb91b38e0b587305283.1a1&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iwTp4TpmrBanpQkvaW_Eh2JI7y2A?docId=CNG.03d45342ac8babb91b38e0b587305283.1a1&hl=en)

**M23 rebels resume attacks on army**

M23 rebels have resumed attacks upon the DR Congo army outside Goma, local radio station Radio Okapi reported on 27 August. The exchange of gunfire began on 26 August afternoon in Kibati, about 20 kilometres north of Goma, North Kivu Province, according to the army's North Kivu spokesperson. The army was prepared "to retaliate against any rebel advance towards Goma," he said.

**Radio Okapi -** [**http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2013/08/27/nord-kivu-nouveaux-accrochages-entre-fardc-m23-kibati/**](http://radiookapi.net/actualite/2013/08/27/nord-kivu-nouveaux-accrochages-entre-fardc-m23-kibati/)

**Clashes in Ituri District displace thousands**

Thousands of people have been displaced by clashes between government forces and an armed group in northeast DRC's Ituri District, according to civil society and aid workers. These civilians are spread across several locations 20-100km south of Bunia, Ituri’s main town, including Katoni, Bogoro, Gety, Tchekele, Songolo, and Aveba. “Some are staying in schools, others are wandering on the roads. They fled on Friday [23 August] amid shelling and gunfire. Nobody had time to take anything with them,” said Gili Gotabo, a civil society leader in Irumu territory, Ituri District.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98640/clashes-in-drc-s-ituri-district-displace-thousands**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98640/clashes-in-drc-s-ituri-district-displace-thousands)

**Liberia**

**Students all fail university admission exam**

Liberia's education minister says she finds it hard to believe that not a single candidate passed this year's university admission exam. Nearly 25,000 school-leavers failed the test for admission to the University of Liberia, one of two state-run universities. The students lacked enthusiasm and did not have a basic grasp of English, a university official told the BBC. Many schools lack basic education material and teachers are poorly qualified, reports the BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh reports from the capital, Monrovia. This is the first time that every single student who wrote the exam for a fee of $25 (£16) has failed, our reporter says.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23843578**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23843578)

**Mali**

**MNLA rebels look to talks, greater autonomy in the north**

Mali's president-elect takes the oath of office on 4 September. According to a temporary ceasefire deal signed by Mali's interim government, he will then have 60 days to open talks with Tuareg rebels in the north to try find a solution to decades of periodic rebellion and instability that last year contributed to an unprecedented nationwide collapse. The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) has backed away from declarations of independence made by some of its members. In the temporary ceasefire agreement signed in June, the group recognized Mali's territorial integrity and borders. The president of the negotiating committee for the MNLA and its ally, the High Council of Azawad (MNLA-HCA), reported that they continue to demand greater autonomy. Some in the MNLA talk about obtaining a "special status" for the far northeastern region of Kidal, others talk of installing a sort of federalism in Mali.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/malis-mnla-rebels-look-to-talks-creater-autonomy-in-north/1737383.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/malis-mnla-rebels-look-to-talks-creater-autonomy-in-north/1737383.html)

**Nigeria**

**Militants kill 14 vigilantes in Bama raid**

Nigerian militants killed 14 pro-government youth vigilantes in an attack on the northeastern town of Bama, a local official who attended a mass funeral for the victims reported. The attack was one of a spate of deadly assaults by the Boko Haram sect this month that raises doubts about whether a military offensive against it since May can succeed. Local vigilante groups run by youth volunteers have been instrumental in helping the military capture Boko Haram members, but they have also made them a target for the insurgents, drawing civilians further into the conflict. The chairman of Bama local council, reported from the city of Maiduguri that insurgents disguised as soldiers lured the youths into a trap. Nine others were wounded. Bama is in Borno state, the centre of the insurgency.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/26/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE97P0PU20130826**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/26/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE97P0PU20130826)

**Sierra Leone**

**Opposition mayor detained over botched ‘mutiny’**

Military investigators in Sierra Leone have detained a senior opposition politician over an alleged attempted mutiny. In a statement read on state broadcaster, SLBC, said the mayor of the city of Bo, was “invited” to help in the investigations. He is a member of the opposition Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) whose secretary-general said their colleague was detained for “subversive activities." The mayor was reportedly arrested together with a renowned businessman in the city. The two become the first civilians to be linked to the incident that has shaken the country's security apparatus. According to one media report, two more arrests were made earlier bringing to 11 the total number of military men now in custody.

**Africa Review -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/-/979180/1969630/-/dbanhyz/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/-/979180/1969630/-/dbanhyz/-/index.html)