**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief -** **Wednesday, 31 July 2013**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CEE/CIS | **Ukraine** | Country 'dangerous' for asylum-seekers |
| EAPR | **Cambodia** | Opposition threatens mass protest over polls |
|  | **Indonesia** | Landslides, flooding kill 10 in the east |
|  | **Thailand** | Call for stronger security for teachers in south |
| ESAR | **Rwanda** | Country dismisses US charges it backs DRCongo rebels |
|  | **Swaziland** | Hunger costs 3% of GDP |
|  | **Uganda** | Amid crackdown, activists publish books |
|  | **Zimbabwe** | Riot police deploy on eve of tight election |
| MENA | **Across MENA** | Gaza rocket hits Israel as talks resume |
|  |  | Kuwait donates 20 tons of dates to Syrian refugees in Jordan |
|  | **Algeria** | Four soldiers killed in clashes |
|  | **Iraq** | Al Qaeda affiliate claims responsibility for bombings |
|  | **Jordan** | Zaatari camp one year on: short term gains at risk without substantial increased - UNICEF mention |
|  | **Lebanon** | Among Syria’s children, anger, lost hope and sometimes newfound happiness - UNICEF mention |
|  |  | Gender-based violence increasing among Syrian families |
|  | **Libya** | Government appoints new military chief |
|  | **Sudan** | Grenade kills 9 children in war zone |
|  | **Syria** | Air raids kill 11 children in Aleppo and Homs |
|  | **Yemen** | Children tormented by landmines and unexploded ordnance - UNICEF mention |
| ROSA | **India** | Ruling coalition endorses new state in the south |
|  | **Pakistan** | Gunmen attack polio team in Pishin, two policemen killed |
| TACR | **Chile** | Authorities should calm land dispute with Mapuche |
|  | **Colombia** | Country to charge militants for crimes |
|  |  | FARC wants leftist involved in freeing US captive |
|  | **Honduras** | Government declares emergency after dengue kills 16 people |
|  | **Paraguay** | Peasants seize land where clash occurred |
| WCAR | **Across WCARO** | Nigeria says to begin Mali troop pullout |
|  | **CAR** | "New Somalia" risk as warlords rule |
|  | **DRC** | UN gives rebels 48 hours to leave Goma |
|  | **Guinea** | Country gains headway in legislative election preparations |
|  | **Mali** | Former prime minister has wide lead |
|  | **Niger** | Most brides are children - UNICEF mention |
|  | **Nigeria** | Authorities arrest 42 militants |

CEE/CIS

**Ukraine**

**Country 'dangerous' for asylum-seekers: UNHCR**

Ukraine is a "dangerous" destination for asylum seekers, the Kiev office of the UN refugee agency said Tuesday, after the high-profile disappearance of a Russian activist who was allegedly kidnapped by the security services and sent back home. "If your request for refugee status is not satisfied then you are not only facing extradition, but also possible disappearance," the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) regional representative for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, Oldrich Andrysek, told reporters. In October last year, Russian opposition activist Leonid Razvozzhayev sought to obtain political asylum in Ukraine, but he was captured by unknown persons and then resurfaced in Russia. Opposition supporters accuse the Russian and Ukrainian special services of abducting him.

**AFP -** [**http://www.expatica.ru/news/local\_news/ukraine-dangerous--for-asylum-seekers-unhcr\_270832.html**](http://www.expatica.ru/news/local_news/ukraine-dangerous--for-asylum-seekers-unhcr_270832.html)

EAPRO

**Cambodia**

**Opposition threatens mass protest over polls**

Cambodia's opposition leader has threatened to call a nationwide protest against the hotly disputed election victory of the ruling party, unless the result of last poll is reversed. The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) has rejected the results of the closely fought poll that returned the ruling party to power, alleging it was robbed of victory by widespread voting irregularities. The CNRP has already called for a UN-backed probe into allegations that 1.25 million legitimate voters were culled from the electoral roll, while more than one million "ghost names" and a further 200,000 duplicated names were added to the list.

**AFP -** [**http://tuoitrenews.vn/international/11781/cambodia-opposition-threatens-mass-protest-over-polls**](http://tuoitrenews.vn/international/11781/cambodia-opposition-threatens-mass-protest-over-polls)

**Indonesia**

**Landslides, flooding kill 10 in the east**

Rescuers pulled 10 bodies from mounds of mud Tuesday after flooding and landslides triggered by torrential rains in eastern Indonesia sent thousands fleeing for safety and left four others missing, a disaster official said. The corpses were retrieved from five hamlets devastated by landslides and floods in Ambon, the capital of Maluku province, while more than 870 houses were flooded by an overflowing river, said Harmensyah, director of emergency relief at the Disaster Mitigation Agency. Authorities struggled to get tractors and bulldozers over washed-out roads. Television footage showed hundreds of police, soldiers and residents digging through debris with their hands, shovels and hoes. Harmensyah, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, said two young children were among the dead, while 28 people were rushed to hospitals with injuries. About 4,300 people fled to temporary shelters.

**AP -** [**http://www.newarkadvocate.com/usatoday/article/2599035**](http://www.newarkadvocate.com/usatoday/article/2599035)

**Thailand**

**Call for stronger security for teachers in south**

Stronger security is needed for teachers in government schools in Thailand’s south, where an ongoing insurgency by separatist groups has left more than 150 teachers dead since 2004, say officials. “The best thing we need to do for teachers and workers in the education field is to strengthen security measures,” the Thai Education Minister reported. His comments come less than a week after a roadside bomb exploded in Chanae District in southern Narathiwat Province, killing two female teachers and seriously wounding one other, in what was described by local media as “the worst day for teachers for months”. According to a recent report by the International Crisis Group (ICG), since 2004 more than 5,000 people, mostly civilians, have lost their lives in the violence which successive governments, beginning with that of former Prime Minister from 2001-2006, have been unable to control.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98494/call-for-stronger-security-for-thai-teachers-in-south**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98494/call-for-stronger-security-for-thai-teachers-in-south)

ESARO

**Rwanda**

**Country dismisses US charges it backs DRCongo rebels**

Rwanda dismissed on Tuesday US charges that it was supporting M23 rebels in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo and said leveling accusations would not help pacify the region. Western donors halted some aid to Rwanda last year after UN experts said Kigali was backing rebels in eastern Congo, a region racked by fighting since the 1990s that has in part been fuelled by a struggle to control rich mineral deposits there. In a report last month, U.N. experts said M23 continued to recruit fighters in Rwanda with the aid of sympathetic Rwanda military officers, prompting Washington to say it was "deeply concerned" and to call for Rwanda to stop offering backing.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-congo-rwanda-rebels-20130730,0,3411429.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-congo-rwanda-rebels-20130730,0,3411429.story)

**Swaziland**

**Hunger costs 3% of GDP**

Around three in 10 young children in Swaziland are stunted by hunger, and 270,000 workers are also physically affected, an official reported, citing a government-backed study. The report, by the Swazi government supported by the WFP, found that around 3.1% of GDP was lost annually due to the long-term fall out. The figure is equal to $92 million. According to the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study, 8% of child deaths are linked to undernutrition. The chief economist in the ministry of planning said 12% of school years being repeated in Swaziland are associated with stunting. When it comes to adults, some 270,000 -- roughly 40% of workers -- are physically affected due to chronic malnutrition in early childhood. Child mortality associated with undernutrition has reduced Swaziland workforce by 0.7%. The study further says that 69% of all child under-nutrition go untreated.

**AFP**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFiMXGIsb7pDmZSUyCkq4TwQkUFA?docId=CNG.dcd4e82fa13b68335fe3b31a4b5ccdb2.211&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFiMXGIsb7pDmZSUyCkq4TwQkUFA?docId=CNG.dcd4e82fa13b68335fe3b31a4b5ccdb2.211&hl=en)

**Uganda**

**Amid crackdown, activists publish books**

The police officers who interrogated Norman Tumuhimbise wanted to know who was the devil in the title of the book he wrote.The opposition activist, who attacks Uganda's long-serving President Yoweri Museveni as a traitor in "Behind the Devil's Line," told his questioners to read the book and find out for themselves, a guarded response that has earned him multiple sessions with detectives who accuse him of defaming the president.Amid a crackdown on street protesters who are trying to spark a wider movement against Museveni, some local activists are writing and distributing books that they hope can be as effective as placards carried on a street.Museveni, who took power by force in 1986 and then promised to reform the country's violent politics is now one of Africa's longest-serving leaders and a dictator in the eyes of some.

**AP -** [**http://bostonherald.com/business/media\_marketing/2013/07/amid\_crackdown\_in\_uganda\_activists\_publish\_books**](http://bostonherald.com/business/media_marketing/2013/07/amid_crackdown_in_uganda_activists_publish_books)

**Zimbabwe**

**Riot police deploy on eve of tight election**

Heavily armed riot police deployed in potential election flashpoints in Zimbabwe on 30 July on the eve of a poll showdown between the President and the Prime Minister that remains too close to call. State radio said thousands of officers had been sent to the central Midlands province, while trucks of police carrying automatic rifles and grenade launchers patrolled in the restive Harare townships of Highfield and Mbare. Western election observers have been barred, leaving the task of independent oversight to 500 regional and 7,000 domestic monitors. The final results must be released within five days but may come sooner.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-zimbabwe-election-idUSBRE96T0IH20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-zimbabwe-election-idUSBRE96T0IH20130730)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Gaza rocket hits Israel as talks resume**

A rocket fired from Gaza hit southern Israel Tuesday, causing no casualties, a police spokesman said, as a first full day of resumed Middle East peace talks was to open. "A rocket was fired from Gaza and exploded in a field in Israeli territory without causing any damage or casualties," Micky Rosenfeld told AFP. The attack came as senior Israeli and Palestinian envoys were to hold a first full day of talks in Washington after their formal resumption on Monday ending a three-year hiatus. Gaza's Hamas rulers, who are deeply opposed to the resumed talks, have observed an informal truce with Israel since November last year. But there has been sporadic rocket fire by other factions.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/gaza-rocket-hits-israel-as-talks-resume/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/gaza-rocket-hits-israel-as-talks-resume/)

**Kuwait donates 20 tons of dates to Syrian refugees in Jordan**

Kuwait Red Crescent Society has delivered to its peer in Jordan 20 tons of dates for Syrian refugees in the kingdom. The aid shipment is part of KRCS's continuous relief effort particularly in the holy month of Ramadhan. The head of the Society's mission in Jordan affirmed the KRCS's commitment to delivering its humanitarian message, urging the aid organizations in the region and beyond to scale up their relief efforts in order to reduce the suffering of the refugees. He added that the Society contributes to several aid programs for the refugees particularly in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, including the initiatives of breakfast for fasting refugees and the Eid clothes.

**Kuna -** [**http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2326063&language=en**](http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2326063&language=en)

**Algeria**

**Four soldiers killed in clashes**

Four Algerian soldiers have been killed in attacks in the east and south of the country, a security source and media reports said on Tuesday. "A captain was shot dead late on Monday at Yakourene in Kabylie by gunmen as he was returning to barracks 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Tizi Ouzou," east of Algiers, a security source told AFP. Newspapers also reported three soldiers killed by an explosion on Sunday night at Meziraa in the southern province of Biskra. "A home-made bomb went off as a national guard patrol passed by, killing two and wounding three," the French-language Le Soir d'Algerie said.

**AFP - http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-30/225649-four-algerian-soldiers-killed-in-clashes-reports.ashx axzz2aXniokML**

**Iraq**

**Al Qaeda affiliate claims responsibility for bombings**

An al Qaeda-affiliated group said it orchestrated a wave of car bombings across Iraq that killed at least 60 people on Monday in revenge for the mistreatment of the country's Sunni community. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which was formed earlier this year through a merger between al Qaeda's affiliates in Iraq and Syria, said in a statement posted online it had carefully selected its targets, which were mainly Shi'ites. The 17 blasts were the latest in a relentless campaign of bombings and shootings that have killed more than 4,000 people since the start of the year. Nearly 900 people have lost their lives in militant attacks in July alone.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE96T0TA20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE96T0TA20130730)

**Jordan**

**Zaatari camp one year on: short term gains at risk without substantial increased support**

After only 12 months a piece of desolate Jordanian desert is now home to some 120,000 Syrian refugees. Today, Zaatari is the second largest camp in the world, the majority of those in the camp are women and children. It houses part of the total number of 507,000 refugees in Jordan, 10 folds the refugee population it had in July 2012. Marking one year since the Zaatari camp opened is a tragic reminder of the catastrophic consequences of the Syrian crisis that has forced thousands of Syrians to flee across the border into Jordan and beyond. At the same time it is an important testament to the generosity of Jordan, and the colossal efforts that its government and people, with the support of more than 59 humanitarian organizations, have made to help shelter, assist, and protect thousands of refugees. Moving forward, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, NGO partners, and the Government will continue to work on improving conditions in the camp, including the strengthening of camp management, security and community participation.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/media/media\_70040.html**](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70040.html)

**Lebanon**

**Among Syria’s children, anger, lost hope and sometimes newfound happiness - UNICEF mention**

The conflict in Syria has killed more than 6,500 children, turned nearly one million into refugees, and left three million inside Syria in need of aid. Some have been disabled, mutilated, sexually abused, tortured in government detention and recruited by armed groups, at as young as age 12. Many have been deprived of their education. Many more have witnessed violence. UNICEF worries Syria’s children could become “a lost generation”. In Lebanon, where hundreds of thousands have sought refuge, the NGO Najda Now helps children recover from trauma through theatre and art. Usually, children’s drawings are dark in colour and theme when they first arrive; they become more colorful and positive over time. Most of the time, children draw two things: what they want and what they are afraid of.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98493/among-syria-s-children-anger-lost-hope-and-sometimes-newfound-happiness**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98493/among-syria-s-children-anger-lost-hope-and-sometimes-newfound-happiness)

**Gender-based violence increasing among Syrian families**

For many Syrian women who have sought sanctuary in Lebanon from a civil war that has so far left an estimated 100,000 dead, their refuge is laden with new dangers. Even within their own families there is sometimes no safety. Syrian female refugees who fled to Lebanon to escape the dangers of the civil war in their own country say they are experiencing more strife within their families. They say jobless husbands frustrated by the stress and indignity of living as refugees lash out, beating wives and hitting their children. They also report increasing sexual abuse from husbands and other male relatives. Aid workers say it is hard to discover how widespread the domestic violence and abuse is. But they say more women are coming forward to seek help and advice on how to cope with violent husbands and abusive male relatives. That, they say, is significant. The Lebanese branch of the non-governmental organization Developmental Action Without Borders runs seven centers for women and children in Lebanon.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/gender-based-violence-increasing-among-syrian-families/1712873.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/gender-based-violence-increasing-among-syrian-families/1712873.html)

**Libya**

**Government appoints new military chief**

The Libyan government said Tuesday it appointed a commander who fought during the revolution at its new military chief of staff. The government appointed Col. Abdulsalam Jad Allah al-Salheen al-Obaidi as the new chief of staff Tuesday. His biography, published by the Libya Herald, says he's a special forces veteran who fought during the revolution against forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. He replaces Maj. Gen. Yousef al-Mangoush, who resigned in June following deadly clashes in Benghazi. He was criticized for leading a response to demonstrators upset with the influence of militias.

**UPI -** [**http://www.upi.com/Business\_News/Energy-Resources/2013/07/30/Libya-appoints-new-military-chief/UPI-78381375198342/**](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2013/07/30/Libya-appoints-new-military-chief/UPI-78381375198342/)

**Sudan**

**Grenade kills 9 children in war zone**

Nine children have been killed by an unexploded grenade blast in Sudan's South Kordofan, a website based in the war-torn region says. The incident happened near Cham Chaka village southeast of Abu Kershola, said Nuba Reports, a website of “citizen reporters” in South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains battleground. It said the explosion happened when a group of youngsters found an unexploded rocket-propelled grenade. “The children picked up the round and it exploded, killing nine of the children and wounding five,” Nuba Reports said. The website's founder gave the names of the victims, who he said were between three and 14 years old. The Sudan Revolutionary Front rebel alliance seized Abu Kershola in April during coordinated strikes in the area, which analysts said humiliated the authorities.

**AFP -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1032954/grenade-kills-nine-children-in-sudan-warzone-website**](http://dawn.com/news/1032954/grenade-kills-nine-children-in-sudan-warzone-website)

**Syria**

**Air raids kill 11 children in Aleppo and Homs**

Seven children in the province of Aleppo and another four in Homs are among 17 civilians killed in air raids, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. The deaths in Homs come as troops pressed an offensive against remaining rebel areas there, while in Aleppo province, the raid comes exactly a year into the rebel takeover of the targeted town of Anadan. Meanwhile, militant rebels downed a military helicopter with a ground-to-air missile near Damascus airport, the Observatory said. "The number of people killed in a regime air raid on Anadan has risen to seven children and three women," the Observatory added. Activists and the Observatory said the strike targeted a mosque in Anadan, where the women and children were attending a religious studies class. Earlier a family of seven that had fled the army's recapture of Khaldiyeh in Homs city was also killed in a raid. Four children were among the dead in the **AP**bombardment of Teir Maaleh village, the Observatory said.

**AP -** [**http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/air-raids-kill-17-in-syrias-aleppo-homs/story-fnihsg6t-1226688449005**](http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/air-raids-kill-17-in-syrias-aleppo-homs/story-fnihsg6t-1226688449005)

**Yemen**

**Children tormented by landmines and unexploded ordnance - UNICEF mention**

Thirteen-year-old Nakhlah Ramadhan was tending sheep with her younger sister Fatima on the outskirts of Sana'a, when she stepped on a landmine. She was killed instantly; Fatima was seriously injured. In neighbouring Bani Al-Harith District, Safa’a Luqman and her younger brother, Mohamed, found what they thought was a toy as they were playing outside their home in Bani Jormooz village. The object—a piece of unexploded ordnance—suddenly exploded, permanently disabling Safa’a and blinding Mohamed.Since the most recent conflict started in July 2011, 71 children have been killed or maimed by these remnants of war, according to a report of the UN Secretary-General. Efforts are under way to remove the landmines. The Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) is doing much of this work with the support of UNDP. In addition, with support from UNICEF, the Yemen de-mining programme has reached over 1.6 million people with mine-risk education since 1999, and provided more than 2,000 victims with medical and psychological assistance.

**OCHA -** [**http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/yemen-children-tormented-landmines-and-unexploded-ordnance**](http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/yemen-children-tormented-landmines-and-unexploded-ordnance)

ROSA

**India**

**Ruling coalition endorses new state in the south**

India's ruling coalition on Tuesday endorsed the creation of a new state in southern India, a move that political analysts said could spur several other long-standing demands for separate states. The United Progressive Alliance coalition unanimously agreed to endorse the formation of a new state called Telangana to be carved out of Andhra Pradesh state, civil aviation minister Ajit Singh told reporters. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Congress party also backed the formation of the state. The government will finish creating the state within the next four to five months, said Digvijay Singh, a top Congress party leader. The large size of some of India's 28 states makes them difficult to administer and has prompted movements to divide them. Telangana would become India's 29th state.

**AP -** [**http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Ruling-coalition-endorses-new-state-in-south-India-4695238.php**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/world/article/Ruling-coalition-endorses-new-state-in-south-India-4695238.php)

**Pakistan**

**Gunmen attack polio team in Pishin, two policemen killed**

Gunmen attacked a polio vaccination team in Pishin district of restive Balochistan province on 30 July, killing two policemen who were providing security. The attackers opened fire as the team was going to administer polio drops in the Kona bazaar area. The campaign involved two male health worker to inoculate children under five years of age against the disease. No female worker is participating in the vaccination campaign after attacks on polio teams across the country over the past few months killed more than 20 people. No one has claimed responsibility for the killings.

**SANA -** [**http://www.sananews.net/english/gunmen-attack-polio-team-in-pishin-two-cops-killed/**](http://www.sananews.net/english/gunmen-attack-polio-team-in-pishin-two-cops-killed/)

TACRO

**Chile**

**Authorities should calm land dispute with Mapuche**

The UN special investigator on human rights and counter-terrorism is asking Chile to stop using an anti-terrorism law against the Mapuche. Ben Emmerson says the situation is "volatile" in the regions of Araucania and Bio Bio, where most Mapuche live. He warns of the danger of conflict there over Mapuche demands for the return of ancestral lands. Emmerson says Chile's government should come up with a strategy to solve the dispute, speed up the return of land and recognize the country's largest indigenous community under the constitution. He also says Chile must put an end to violent abuses by police against the Mapuche.

**AP -** [**http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\_id=2&objectid=10905969**](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10905969)

**Colombia**

**Country to charge militants for crimes**

Colombia will charge 13 paramilitary chiefs and three rebel chiefs with crimes against humanity for some of the worst atrocities in decades of civil strife. "We are talking about 16 crimes in which there were approximately 3,000 people killed. And the attorney general's office will be addressing 11,000 cases of serious rights violations," the country's top prosecutor reported. The guerrillas will be charged for war crimes, mainly kidnapping. The paramilitaries crimes covered a broader range, from kidnappings to sexual abuse to attacks on entire towns, he said.

**AP -** [**http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/colombia-to-charge-militants-for-crimes/story-fn3dxix6-1226688650069**](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/colombia-to-charge-militants-for-crimes/story-fn3dxix6-1226688650069)

**FARC wants politician involved in freeing US captive**

Colombia's FARC rebels said on Tuesday they are waiting for the government to allow a leftist politician to be involved in coordinating the release of a former U.S. marine kidnapped last month before setting him free. President Juan Manuel Santos has refused to allow Piedad Cordoba, a former senator specifically requested by the FARC, to be involved in the release of American Kevin Scott Sutay, who was seized as he trekked across dangerous jungle in eastern Colombia. "The ball is in the government's court, we have no interest in delaying or postponing the handover," said Rodrigo Granda, one of several FARC leaders who is in Havana negotiating an end to Colombia's five-decade conflict.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-colombia-rebels-20130730,0,7934496.story**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-colombia-rebels-20130730,0,7934496.story)

**Honduras**

**Government declares emergency after dengue kills 16 people**

Honduras' government has declared a state of emergency due to a dengue fever outbreak that has killed 16 people and sickened 12,000. The Health Minister says that the decree means the government is making it a priority to prevent and control the disease and fight the mosquitoes that spread it. He says that more than half of Honduras' municipalities have registered dengue fever cases. Authorities say two Hondurans died last year from the disease and there were no deaths registered in 2011. But the country's worst dengue fever outbreak in recent years was in 2010, when 83 people died and more than 66,000 had the illness.

**AP -** [**http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Honduras-declares-emergency-after-dengue-kills-16-4696686.php**](http://www.sfgate.com/news/world/article/Honduras-declares-emergency-after-dengue-kills-16-4696686.php)

**Paraguay**

**Peasants seize land where clash occurred**

Some 200 Paraguayan poor farmers have reoccupied land where six police officers and 11 farmworkers were killed last year in a violent eviction that led to the ouster of President Fernando Lugo. Police say the group's leaders are demanding the release of the 12 farmworkers charged in the eviction as well as compensation for the farmers. Farmworker Martina Paredes says they reoccupied the disputed soy farm because they believe it belongs to the state and not the family members of a late senator.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/paraguay-peasants-seize-land-clash-occurred-19818082**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/paraguay-peasants-seize-land-clash-occurred-19818082)

WCARO

**Across WCAR**

**Nigeria says to begin Mali troop pullout**

Nigeria will begin withdrawing some of its 1,200 troops in Mali on 31 July and redeploy them in security operations at home, the military reported. Nigeria has been planning the withdrawal mainly due to the need for more soldiers to fight its own homegrown militant insurgency. "The troops are mainly those not accommodated in the structures of the newly formed United Nations ... mission in Mail," a Brigadier-General said in a statement. "They are to join the ongoing internal security operations." He did not specify how many troops would be withdrawn, saying only that an "input of sizable men and materials (will) ... continue in the UN Mission," including a Nigeria-run military hospital.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE96T1EJ20130730**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/us-nigeria-violence-idUSBRE96T1EJ20130730)

**CAR**

**"New Somalia" risk as warlords rule**

The landlocked former French colony - one of the poorest places on earth - has been plunged into chaos since the Seleka rebels seized power from President Francois Bozize four months ago, triggering a humanitarian crisis in the heart of Africa largely ignored by the West. With the country outside the capital Bangui in the grip of rebel warlords, many aid groups and U.N. agencies have pulled out, leaving its 4.5 million inhabitants to fend for themselves. Central African Republic's porous borders mean Arabic-speaking marauding raiders, poachers and soldiers of fortune from neighbouring Chad and Sudan form part of the armed groups that have preyed on the countryside in recent years.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130730161044-p3eva**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130730161044-p3eva)

**DR Congo**

**UN gives rebels 48 hours to leave Goma**

The United Nations on Tuesday gave M23 rebel forces 48 hours to leave the city of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo or face "the use of force." A new UN intervention brigade will be used for the first time to help the DR Congo army set up a "security zone" in the city, the UN said. A statement by the UN mission in DR Congo, MONUSCO, gave M23 rebels in Goma until 4:00pm (2000 GMT) on Thursday "to hand in their weapon to a MONUSCO base" and join a demobilization program. After then, "they will be considered an imminent threat of physical violence to civilians and MONUSCO will take all necessary measures to disarm them, including by the use of force in accordance with its mandate and rules of engagement." The UN-proposed security zone includes Goma and its

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hEqg0wuKWvu4TW2QdIj5h7m03TTA?docId=CNG.9027c2647107ab5444e4a456b403a9f3.251**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hEqg0wuKWvu4TW2QdIj5h7m03TTA?docId=CNG.9027c2647107ab5444e4a456b403a9f3.251)

**Guinea**

**Country gains headway in legislative election preparations**

Guinea has gained headway in preparing the long-delayed legislative elections with the completion of operations to revise the electoral lists, according to the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI). CENI has completed the operations to revise the electoral lists, despite the disruptions that were witnessed during the registration period in Conakry and in the region of Forestiere, where deadly violence erupted in July, an official reported. The electoral commission pushed ahead with the operations in line with the election timetable, which provides that the revision end on 27 July. In a new electoral calendar, CENI has proposed the legislative elections be held on 24 September, after the postponement of the vote, which was initially set for 30 June by the President.

**Xinhua -** [**http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/30/c\_132587996.htm**](http://big5.xinhuanet.com/gate/big5/news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-07/30/c_132587996.htm)

**Mali**

**Former prime minister has wide lead in vote early returns, potentially avoiding runoff**

A Malian official says early results show veteran politician and former prime minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has a wide lead in the country's presidential election, potentially allowing him to avoid a runoff next month. Col. Moussa Sinko Coulibaly, minister of territorial administration, said Tuesday that with one-third of the vote counted, Keita, known by his initials IBK, was well ahead of the 27-candidate field, followed by former finance minister Soumaila Cisse. He said officials would be finished counting the vote by Wednesday at the latest.

**AP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/former-prime-minister-has-wide-lead-in-mali-vote-early-returns-potentially/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/30/former-prime-minister-has-wide-lead-in-mali-vote-early-returns-potentially/)

**Niger**

**Most brides are children -** **UNICEF mention**

It is no wonder that a population and health survey conducted in 2012 by the Ministry of Public Health, and released this July, revealed that 75% of girls get married before the age of 18 in this country of 16 million. According to the study, young girls aged between 15 and 19 years are the most vulnerable. In 2011 UNICFE State of the World’s Children report ranked Niger first on its list of countries with a high prevalence of early marriages. A guidance counsellor at the Ministry of National Education, reported that parents who marry off their young daughters usually cite their religion as the reason.

**IPS -** [**http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/most-brides-in-niger-are-children/**](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/most-brides-in-niger-are-children/)

**Nigeria**

**Authorities arrest 42 militants**

Up to 42 suspected members of Islamic group Boko Haram sect have been arrested in southwestern Nigeria, a military chief said on Monday. The arrests, based on intelligence reports, were made during raids between July 12 and 23 in the country's southwest Lagos and Ogun states, said Maj. Gen. Obi Umahi, general officer commanding (GOC) of the Nigerian Army 81 Div. The suspects have admitted to being members of the sect, while some confessed to having taken part in deadly Boko Haram operations in some parts of the country, he added. The military chief said some of them were among those responsible for the killing of soldiers and civilians in northeastern city of Maiduguri, Borno.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/800135.shtml**](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/800135.shtml)

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

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