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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Syria monitors win Nobel Peace Prize**

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the body overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal, has won the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee said it was in honour of the OPCW's "extensive work to eliminate chemical weapons." OPCW director general Ahmet Uzumcu said the award was a "great honour" and would spur it on in its work. He said the deployment of chemical weapons in Syria had been a "tragic reminder that there remains much work to be done." It is the first time OPCW inspectors have worked in an active war zone.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24490925**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24490925)

**Turkey approves strikes against rebels in Iraq**

Turkey's parliament has extended for another year a mandate allowing the military to carry out operations against Kurdish rebels based in neighboring northern Iraq. Legislators on Thursday voted for the measure at a time when talks aimed at ending nearly 30 years of fighting with the autonomy-seeking rebels appear increasingly fragile. The rebels last month suspended their planned pullout of Turkish territory, accusing Turkey's government of not keeping promises for greater rights for Kurds. Kurdish legislators have said that a package of reforms unveiled by PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan falls short of expectations.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkey-approves-strikes-rebels-iraq-20528947**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkey-approves-strikes-rebels-iraq-20528947)

**Soup kitchens, food aid: Europe hit by worst crisis in 60 yrs**

Five years ago it would have been unimaginable to see Europeans queuing for food in soup kitchens, receiving food parcels at home or shopping at specially-designated grocery stores stocked with low-cost food. Yet that is the reality for millions of people living in one of the wealthiest regions in the world, the IFRC said in a report launched on Thursday. The global financial crisis of 2008 has left Europe facing a humanitarian emergency on a scale not seen since the 1950s and its impact may be felt for decades to come, warned the IFRC. "Europe is facing its worst humanitarian crisis in six decades," IFRC Secretary General Bekele Geleta said in a statement. The crisis has increased the number of people living in poverty, widened the gap between rich and poor and spurred more people to ask for food aid and other kinds of assistance such as job training and help to fill in forms for benefits. The international humanitarian network said the number of people depending on Red Cross food distributions in 22 European countries had soared by 75% between 2009 and 2012 to 3.5 million.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131010141244-86jhn/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131010141244-86jhn/?source=hptop)

**IFRC -** [**http://ifrc.org/PageFiles/134339/1260300-Economic%20crisis%20Report\_EN\_LR.pdf**](http://ifrc.org/PageFiles/134339/1260300-Economic%20crisis%20Report_EN_LR.pdf)

CEE/CIS

**Azerbaijan**

**Observers call vote unfair, opposition plans challenge**

Opponents of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on Thursday they would go to court to challenge his election to a third term, rejecting the result of a vote that international monitors said was seriously flawed. International monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the vote was marred by a "restrictive media environment" and allegations of intimidation of candidates and voters. Monitors reported clear indications of ballot-stuffing at 37 polling stations, and said the counting was assessed negatively at an unprecedented 58 per cent of stations observed. The US State Department said Washington agreed with the OSCE that the election "fell short of international standards". In a statement, it urged the Azeri government to respect freedom of peaceful assembly, association and speech and to prevent violence in the post-electoral period.

**Reuters -** [**http://ca.news.yahoo.com/observers-call-azerbaijan-vote-unfair-opposition-plans-challenge-202502636.html**](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/observers-call-azerbaijan-vote-unfair-opposition-plans-challenge-202502636.html)

EAPR

**China**

**Authorities detain activist amid rights crackdown**

China has detained a prominent rights activist for more than two months without formally charging him, his lawyer said on Friday, the latest case in a crackdown on freedom of assembly. The length of Guo Feixiong's detention exceeds the 37-day limit allowed for holding an individual without a formal arrest and charge under Chinese law. Guo, a longtime advocate for democracy and human rights based in the southern city of Guangzhou, has also been denied access to legal counsel and any contact with his family members, said Lin Qilei, one of Guo's lawyers. Guo was detained for disrupting order in a public space on 8 August, Lin said. But he said authorities had provided no details of any event or crime linked to his client on that day.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-china-rights-idUSBRE99A07720131011**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-china-rights-idUSBRE99A07720131011)

**DPR Korea**

**Government test moratorium mooted at informal talks**

North Korea has dangled the prospect of suspending nuclear and long-range missile tests if aid-for-disarmament negotiations get back on track. But it is not ready to declare a moratorium on space launches the very act that derailed its last attempt to negotiate with Washington. Recent informal discussions between former US officials and North Korean negotiators in Europe showed Pyongyang's desire to restart six-nation talks on its nuclear program. But it also underscored the major hurdles that remain before US would be persuaded that diplomacy with the secretive regime is worth another shot.

**AP -** [**http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\_id=2&objectid=11138663**](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11138663)

**Myanmar**

**Talks with Kachin rebels show progress**

Representatives of Myanmar's government and Kachin ethnic rebels said Thursday they made significant progress in their latest peace talks and that a comprehensive cease-fire agreement including all armed ethnic groups might be in sight. The Kachin are the only major group that does not have an active cease-fire with the government, after a truce signed in 1994 broke down two years ago. But a Kachin spokesman said a cease-fire might be signed as early as next month.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-talks-kachin-rebels-show-progress-20528961**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-talks-kachin-rebels-show-progress-20528961)

**Philippines**

**Typhoon barrels toward north**

A tropical storm Nari barreling toward the northern Philippines on Friday intensified into a typhoon with destructive winds and flooding rains threatening farmlands and populated areas, including the capital Manila. Authorities placed 14 provinces and metropolitan Manila under storm alert, closed schools and put emergency services on notice. The typhoon is forecast to slam ashore in northeastern Aurora province later Friday or early Saturday with winds of 120km (74 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 150kph (93mph). Rainfall will exceed 100 to 200 millimeters (4 to 8 inches) with up to 300 mm (12 inches) in mountainous areas - about a month's average in 24 hours.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/typhoon-barrels-northern-philippines-20537503**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/typhoon-barrels-northern-philippines-20537503)

ESAR

**Madagascar**

**Bubonic plague warning**

Madagascar faces a bubonic plague epidemic unless it slows the spread of the disease, experts have warned. The Red Cross and Pasteur Institute say inmates in the island's rat-infested jails are particularly at risk. Madagascar had 256 plague cases and 60 deaths last year, the world's highest recorded number. ICRC and the Pasteur Institute have worked with local health groups in Madagascar since February 2012 on a campaign to improve prison hygiene. "If the plague gets into prisons there could be a sort of atomic explosion of plague within the town. The prison walls will never prevent the plague from getting out and invading the rest of the town," said the institute's Christophe Rogier. ICRC said the 3,000 inmates of Antanimora, the main prison in the heart of the capital Antananarivo, live with a huge rat population which spreads infected fleas through food supplies, bedding and clothing.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24461474**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24461474)

**Malawi**

**President dissolves cabinet in response to graft scandal**

Malawi President Joyce Banda dissolved her cabinet after officials in her government were accused of misappropriating state funds, her office said on Thursday. It said Banda, who came to office in April 2012, will announce a new cabinet in due course, without elaborating.

**Reuters -** [**http://za.news.yahoo.com/malawi-president-dissolves-cabinet-response-graft-scandal-164457133.html**](http://za.news.yahoo.com/malawi-president-dissolves-cabinet-response-graft-scandal-164457133.html)

LAC

**Brazil**

**Gang war in Pedrinhas jail kills 13**

Thirteen inmates have been killed and at least 30 injured in a fight between rival gangs in a prison in Brazil. Riot police say they have regained control of Pedrinhas prison in Sao Luis, in the state of Maranhao, and are searching the jail for illegal weapons. Prison guards said fighting had broken out after they discovered inmates digging an escape tunnel. Brazilian prisons suffer from extreme overcrowding and riots and gang warfare are not unusual. The riot started after guards received a tip-off that 60 inmates were digging a tunnel through which they were planning to escape at dawn, Maranhao state security secretary Aluisio Mendes said.   
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24472528**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24472528)

**Haiti**

**Five Haitians, including 4 children die in house collapse**

A Haitian mother and her four children died after a wall collapsed on their small home due to heavy rains in Port-au-Prince, authorities said on Thursday. The family was among hundreds of thousands of people still living in tents or makeshift housing in the Haitian capital, more than three years after a powerful January 2010 earthquake. "The victims, a mother and her four children, including a newborn, died inside their small home" built next to the fence of a nearby factory, said Nadia Lochard of Haiti's Civil Protection Office.   
**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/haitian-mother-and-4-children-die-house-collapse-20131011**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/haitian-mother-and-4-children-die-house-collapse-20131011)

**Security Council urges UN to combat cholera, extends peacekeeping mission**

The Security Council is urging the UN to keep up efforts to combat cholera in Haiti in a resolution extending the mandate of the peacekeeping force whose soldiers have been widely blamed for starting the epidemic. The council unanimously adopted the resolution Thursday, a day after human rights groups filed a lawsuit against the UN seeking compensation for thousands of cholera victims. The lawsuit stems from a cholera outbreak in Haiti that surfaced in 2010, and which health officials say has killed more than 8,000 people. The Security Council urged the UN to continue assisting the Haitian government in its efforts to fight cholera and improve the country's water and sanitation systems.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/security-council-urges-combat-haiti-cholera-20531734**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/security-council-urges-combat-haiti-cholera-20531734)

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46235&Cr=haiti&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46235&Cr=haiti&Cr1)**=**

**El Salvador**

**Police find stash of anti-tank grenades**

Police in El Salvador have found a stash of more than 200 anti-tank grenades hidden in a carpenter's workshop in a rural area. Investigators said the arms were probably linked to Los Zetas, a Mexican drug cartel which has been expanding its operations to Central America. They said the grenades were in a good state and had not been buried long. Locals said they had seen a group of heavily armed men arrive in three cars with Guatemalan number plates, forcing their way onto the property in El Congo, 50km (30miles) north of San Salvador.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24459492**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24459492)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Syrian child refugees face exploitation, UNICEF says**

Child refugees who have fled Syria's civil war are vulnerable to exploitation including early marriage, domestic violence and child labor, despite efforts to keep them in school, UNICEF said on Thursday. More than one million children, some without parents or close relatives, are among 2.1 million refugees who have crossed mainly into Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey since March 2011, the agency says. Jordan hosts 540,000 Syrian refugees, straining health and education services and already scarce water resources, said Michele Servadei, UNICEF's deputy representative in Jordan. Most Syrians live in host communities in the north, while 120,000 are at the teeming Zaatari camp in the Jordanian desert.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-syria-crisis-children-idUSBRE9990U320131010**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-syria-crisis-children-idUSBRE9990U320131010)

**Iran**

**Rebels kill 5 Revolutionary Guards**

An Iranian semi-official news agency is reporting an armed group has killed five members of the elite Revolutionary Guards in a Kurdish area near the Iraqi border. The Thursday report by Fars quotes an unnamed official as saying two other members of the Guards were wounded in the midday clash with "counterrevolutionary armed guerrillas" near the Kurdish town of Baneh, some 488km west of Tehran. The report did not name any group but the area is scene of occasional clashes between government forces and rebels. This was the most serious incident between the two sides since April 2012, when four troops from the Guards were killed in clashes with rebels in the Kurdish area.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rebels-iran-kill-revolutionary-guards-20534481**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rebels-iran-kill-revolutionary-guards-20534481)

**Country up for UN disarmament panel post, US objects**

Iran is running for the vice chairmanship of the UN Disarmament Commission, which the US said on Thursday was unacceptable in light of Tehran's many breaches of Security Council demands that it halt its controversial atomic work. Several UN diplomats told Reuters that Iran was running unopposed for one of two vice chair posts allotted to the Asia-Pacific Group, one of five regional UN groups. Iran's UN mission defended its candidacy for the post, saying Tehran has been a "front-runner" on disarmament for years. Western diplomats said such UN posts are largely symbolic, though Tehran uses them to try to improve its reputation at the UN.

**Reuters -** [**http://ca.news.yahoo.com/iran-u-n-disarmament-panel-post-u-objects-210756758.html**](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/iran-u-n-disarmament-panel-post-u-objects-210756758.html)

**Iraq**

**UN rights office condemns 'obscene' executions**

The UN rights office Friday condemned Iraq's "obscene" execution of 42 convicts within a week, saying the country's justice system was too flawed to allow any use of capital punishment. The strongly-worded statement from the world body's human rights watchdog came a day after Iraq's justice ministry said that 42 people convicted of "terrorism" had been put to death over the past week. Iraq also executed 23 people during two days in September, 20 of them convicted on "terrorism" charges. "The justice system in Iraq is too seriously flawed to warrant even a limited application of the death penalty, let alone dozens of executions at a time," said Rupert Colville, spokesman for the UN's high commissioner for human rights.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/11/U-N-rights-office-condemns-obscene-Iraqi-executions-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/11/U-N-rights-office-condemns-obscene-Iraqi-executions-.html)

**Violence kills 20 people**

Violence in Iraq killed 20 people on Thursday, among them four anti-Al-Qaeda fighters shot dead by gunmen and eight militants killed by security forces, officials said. In Samarra, north of Baghdad, gunmen killed two Sahwa anti-Al-Qaeda fighters in an attack on a checkpoint, while two more died in a similar attack near Baquba, also north of the capital. The Sahwa, who joined forces with the US from late 2006 and helped bring about a sharp reduction in violence in Iraq, are frequently targeted by Sunni militants, who consider them to be traitors. Northeast of Baquba, a roadside bomb killed two police and wounded a third when it exploded near their patrol in the town of Muqdadiyah, which has been hit by frequent bombings and shootings this year. In Baghdad itself, bombings killed three people and wounded 11, while the owner of a tyre shop was gunned down.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jD-7Ss3Jz5SftGi\_vnhbgxOrJ91w?docId=41139426-b0c2-4cd4-a3ac-cbf87ab5d0bf**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jD-7Ss3Jz5SftGi_vnhbgxOrJ91w?docId=41139426-b0c2-4cd4-a3ac-cbf87ab5d0bf)

**Car bomb at Swedish consulate in Benghazi, no casualties**  
A car bomb exploded outside the Swedish consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Friday, damaging the building's front and nearby houses, but no casualties were immediately reported. The bomb exploded a day after Libya's PM Ali Zeidan was briefly abducted by a group of former rebels. The Swedish foreign ministry said it had no information about the incident. Nobody claimed responsibility for attack, which took place days after a US special forces' raid captured a Libyan al Qaeda suspect in Tripoli, outraging Islamist militants, who called for revenge attacks.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-libya-security-idUSBRE99A08F20131011**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-libya-security-idUSBRE99A08F20131011)

**Sudan**

**Authorities urge pressure on SPLM-N rebels to carry out vaccination campaign**

Sudanese interior minister Ibrahim Mahmoud has urged to put pressures on the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) to accept the start of polio vaccination campaign for children under five years in the rebel held areas in southern and southern east regions. The SPLM-N said willing to cooperate with the UN agencies to carry out this vaccination campaign but refused the participation of Sudan’s Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and its employees saying they are security agents. The rebel group recently agreed to bring the vaccine from Khartoum but demanded direct discussions on a humanitarian cessation of hostilities for the conduct of the operation. Khartoum refuses to hold direct talks saying such measures can be brokered by the UN.  
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48403**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48403)

**Children convicted of vandalism in riots: lawyer**

Four children and four adults were convicted on Thursday of vandalism during a week of deadly anti-government riots in Sudan, a defense lawyer said, the first judgments recorded in cases linked to the violence in the capital. Sudanese authorities have said they arrested 700 people during the worst unrest in central Sudan in years, triggered by cuts to subsidies on cooking oil and fuel that doubled pump prices overnight. The judge on Thursday jailed the adults for six months each and ordered the children - whose ages could not immediately be confirmed - to be transferred to a juvenile court for sentencing, defense lawyer Mutassim al-Haj said. Amnesty International said last week 210 protesters were killed in the clashes in Khartoum and other cities that started on 23 September, quoting figures from a Sudanese doctors' union. Khartoum governor Abdul Rahman al-Khidir said on Wednesday 60-70 people died in the capital, state media reported. Khartoum has denied shooting any protesters it dismisses as "vandals."  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-sudan-protests-trial-idUSBRE9990QJ20131010**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-sudan-protests-trial-idUSBRE9990QJ20131010)

**Syria**

**Rebels killed 190 civilians in August dawn raid: HRW**

Syrian rebels killed at least 190 civilians and took more than 200 hostage during an offensive in Latakia province in August, Human Rights Watch said on Friday, in what it calls the first evidence of crimes against humanity by opposition forces. HRW said many of the dead had been executed by militant groups, some linked to al Qaeda, who overran army positions at dawn on 4 August and then moved into 10 villages nearby where members of President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite sect lived. In its first government-sanctioned trip into Syria during the 2-1/2-year conflict HRW has documented a series of sectarian mass killings by Assad's foes during a broader campaign in which Western-backed rebels took part.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-syria-crisis-killings-idUSBRE99A03520131011**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/us-syria-crisis-killings-idUSBRE99A03520131011)

**Yemen**

**Suicide bomber targets southern separatists**

A suicide bomber in southern Yemen gravely wounded three members of the separatist Southern Movement on Friday in an attack in Lahij province, the group and a local official said. The bomber detonated an explosives belt as activists' cars headed for the port of Aden for a demonstration on Saturday marking the independence of the former South Yemen. A Southern Movement source said the attack took place in Al-Askariya district of Lahij. The bomber was killed "and three members of the Southern Movement were gravely wounded and evacuated towards Aden to be hospitalised", the source said.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/11/Suicide-bomber-targets-Yemen-southern-separatists-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/10/11/Suicide-bomber-targets-Yemen-southern-separatists-.html)

**Intelligence officer killed in flashpoint city**

Gunmen shot dead a Yemeni intelligence officer Thursday in Mukalla, a provincial capital where al-Qaida-linked militants briefly seized an army headquarters and took hostages last week, a security source said. Men on motorcycles fired seven times at Colonel Abdullah al-Tamimi in the Fuah district, killing him on the spot, before fleeing the scene, the source said. Mukalla is the capital of the southeastern province of Hadramawt and is a major port city.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/101688-yemen-intelligence-officer-killed-in-flashpoint-city**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/101688-yemen-intelligence-officer-killed-in-flashpoint-city)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**UN extends NATO force for last time**

The UNSC voted unanimously Thursday to extend the mandate of the NATO-led force in Afghanistan for the last time before it hands over total responsibility for security to Afghan forces at the end of 2014. The resolution adopted by the council said the situation in Afghanistan "still constitutes a threat to international peace and security." It expressed serious concern about security in the country, pointing to ongoing violence and terrorist activities by the Taliban, al-Qaida, and other illegal and extremist groups as well as by criminals and those involved in the illegal drug trade.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/extends-nato-force-afghanistan-time-20534881**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/extends-nato-force-afghanistan-time-20534881)

**India**

**Eastern braces for impact of major Cyclone**

Officials ordered tens of thousands of coastal villagers to flee their homes Friday as a massive cyclone - so large it filled nearly the entire Bay of Bengal. Officials stockpiled emergency supplies in coastal Orissa and Andhra Pradesh states, with forecasters saying Cyclone Phailin will hit the region Saturday evening.

The Indian Meteorological Department warned that Phailin was a "very severe cyclonic storm" that was expected to hit with maximum sustained winds of 210-220 kilometers (130-135 miles) per hour. If the storm continues on its current path without weakening, it is expected to cause large-scale power and communications outages and shut down road and rail links, officials said. Satellite images of the storm showed its spinning tails reaching nearly 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) from the east coast of India to the west coast of Myanmar, an area roughly the size of France. Authorities evacuated 40,000 people from 40 villages to government-run shelters, schools and buildings in five districts of Orissa state, said Surya Narayan Patra, the state revenue and disaster management minister. Patra said authorities plan to take another 100,000 people to safer areas before the cyclone hits.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eastern-india-braces-impact-major-cyclone-20538504**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/eastern-india-braces-impact-major-cyclone-20538504)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131010152401-wtldx/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131010152401-wtldx/)

**Tens of thousands flee as cyclone 'half the size of India' threatens east coast**

India's east coast braced on Friday for a cyclone covering half the size of the country, with tens of thousands of residents in low-lying areas fleeing their homes after authorities forecast a risk to life and extensive damage once the storm hits land. Satellite images showed Cyclone Phailin 600km (360 miles) off the coast in the Bay of Bengal and likely to make landfall on Saturday evening. Some forecasters likened its size and intensity to that of hurricane Katrina, which devastated the US Gulf coast and New Orleans in 2005.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.dnaindia.com/india/1902223/report-tens-of-thousands-flee-as-cyclone-half-the-size-of-india-threatens-east-coast**](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/1902223/report-tens-of-thousands-flee-as-cyclone-half-the-size-of-india-threatens-east-coast)

Nepal

**Candidate's death raises security fears before November vote**

An election candidate in Nepal died on Thursday a week after being shot by motorcycle gunmen, his party said, heightening fears that violence could mar a vote meant to stabilise one of Asia's most volatile nations. Since the shooting, political parties have demanded that the caretaker government provide adequate security to candidates especially in the southern plains where some armed groups are fighting for regional autonomy. A breakaway group of Maoist ex-rebels has threatened to disrupt the vote with protests and strikes, saying the main political parties excluded them from all negotiations before the election. About a dozen people, including two candidates, were killed in violence in the run-up to the 2008 vote.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Nepal\_candidates\_death\_raises\_security\_fears\_before\_November\_vote.html?cid=37089456**](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Nepal_candidates_death_raises_security_fears_before_November_vote.html?cid=37089456)

**Pakistan**

**Musharraf arrested over Red Mosque case**

Pakistani ex-President Pervez Musharraf has been arrested over a 2007 mosque raid a day after the country's supreme court granted him bail in another case. The operation ordered by Gen Musharraf on Islamabad's besieged Red Mosque left a cleric and more than 100 others dead. Gen Musharraf is already under house arrest on other charges, but appeared to take a step towards freedom after he was granted bail on Thursday. He insists all the charges against him are politically motivated. "We are confident that truth will prevail and all these false, fabricated and fictitious charges against the former president will have no legs to stand on," Gen Musharraf's spokesman Raza Bokhari said on Thursday.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24481955**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24481955)

WCAR

**CAR**

**UN backs peace effort**

The UNSC unanimously approved a resolution on Thursday aimed at stabilizing CAR. Sponsored by France, the resolution promised support for a new multinational AU force that is deploying in CAR, and it raised the possibility that the operation would be transformed into a UN peacekeeping mission, which would give it more resources and power.   
**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/11/world/africa/un-central-african-republic.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/11/world/africa/un-central-african-republic.html)

**Ex-rebels 'attack security forces' in northwest**

Ex-rebels have attacked security forces deployed to Garga in the northwest of CAR after clashes in which about 50 people were killed, a police commander said Friday. "There was an incident (Thursday). One element (of the disbanded Seleka rebel alliance) fired on our positions. It wounded two people and we pulled back," Colonel Christian Djouma Narkoyo said on state radio, three days after a bloodbath in Garga.

"It was former Seleka fighters ... who did these things. It is truly deplorable. It's discouraging to see such things and it's unacceptable," added Narkoyo, himself a member of the Seleka coalition that brought President Michel Djotodia to power in March. He said he "counted a score of corpses" still in the mining village, where about 50 people were reported killed and dozens wounded Tuesday in clashes between ex-rebels and local self-defence groups.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131011/ex-rebels-attack-security-forces-northwest-c-africa**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131011/ex-rebels-attack-security-forces-northwest-c-africa)

**Mali**

**France says its forces kill 10 Islamist militants**

French special forces killed around 10 militants in a gun battle in northern Mali this month, Paris said on Thursday, as simmering violence threatens security at November elections and will delay a French troop withdrawal. France, which sent soldiers to its former colony in January to oust militants who had taken over swathes of the country, will not draw down troop numbers to 1,000, from 3,200 by year-end as initially planned, a spokesman confirmed.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-mali-crisis-france-idUSBRE9990MC20131010**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-mali-crisis-france-idUSBRE9990MC20131010)

**Government takes baby steps toward protecting former child soldiers – UNICEF mention**

Just a handful of the hundreds of Malian children believed to have been drawn into the country's recent conflict are formally receiving help. Bamako authorities say the involvement of children in conflict is a new phenomenon in the country, and they are striving to protect the minors under a fledgling set of regulations. Children as young as seven found themselves in the rebel ranks, said aid group Watchlist in a June report, which explained that the minors were tasked with manning road blocks, cooking and running errands, and many were trained to use weapons. Many girls were raped or forced into marriage. The recruitment was catalysed by poverty, with many children being lured by the promise of money. Many are said to have been from small villages outside the main northern Mali cities. Others were introduced into the rebel ranks by their families, said Corinne Dufka, Human Rights Watch’s West Africa researcher.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98922/mali-takes-baby-steps-toward-protecting-former-child-soldiers**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98922/mali-takes-baby-steps-toward-protecting-former-child-soldiers)

**Nigeria**

**At least 16 killed in central unrest**

Armed gunmen suspected to be cattle rustlers killed 10 members of one family before six of the gunmen were shot dead by security forces in Nigeria's central Plateau state, the police said. "Cattle rustlers believed to be (ethnic) Fulani attacked Kukek village in the state. They murdered about 10 members of a family. Six of the attackers were mowed down in an exchange of fire with security forces," the police chief in the state, Chris Olakpe said. Several other people in the village were wounded in the attack, said Olakpe, who added he went to the inspect the area after the attack.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/least-16-killed-central-nigeria-unrest-201816871.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/least-16-killed-central-nigeria-unrest-201816871.html)

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