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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**US warns Rwanda over support for DRC rebels**

The United States called on Rwanda to end support for M23 rebels in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. "We call upon Rwanda to immediately end any support for the M23 and withdraw military personnel from eastern DRC," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Tuesday. Psaki said the latest concerns over M23 follow credible evidence from Human Rights Watch that said the rebels were to blame for executions, rapes and forcible recruitment of men and boys while receiving support from Rwanda. The HRW acknowledged on Tuesday erroneous testimony in the report but said it stands by its conclusions. Rwanda rejected the group's allegations, saying that the inclusion of incorrect testimony undermined the report.  
**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/07/201372464855746286.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/07/201372464855746286.html)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**UNHCR condemns Australia asylum deal with PNG**

UNHCR has said it is troubled by Australia’s [agreement with Papua New Guinea](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/201371974716301126.html) (PNG), which would become the primary processing and resettlement country for asylum-seekers attempting to reach Australia by boat.  [UNHCR said in a written statement](http://unhcr.org.au/unhcr/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=35&Itemid=63) issued on Friday that there were significant shortcomings in the legal framework for receiving and processing asylum-seekers from Australia. "UNHCR’s assessment, based on recent visits to PNG, is that there are currently significant shortcomings in the legal framework for receiving and processing asylum-seekers from Australia," the UN body said.

"These include a lack of national capacity and expertise in processing, and poor physical conditions within open-ended, mandatory and arbitrary detention settings.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/201372655314300956.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/07/201372655314300956.html)

**China's coastguard confronts Japanese ships near disputed islands**

China says ships from its newly formed coastguard confronted Japanese patrol vessels on Friday in waters surrounding East China Sea islands claimed by both sides. The State Oceanic Administration that oversees the service says four of its ships "sternly declared" China's sovereignty over the islands called Senkaku by Japan and Diaoyu by China, and demanded they leave the area. The uninhabited archipelago is controlled by Tokyo but also claimed by Beijing.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/26/china-coastguard-confronts-japan-disputed-islands**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/26/china-coastguard-confronts-japan-disputed-islands)

**Cambodia**

**Cambodia's opposition chief in poll setback**

Cambodia's newly returned opposition leader suffered a new setback Thursday in his attempt to stand in parliamentary elections Sunday, while poll monitors voiced concern at alleged irregularities. Sam Rainsy returned to Cambodia last week after receiving a surprise royal pardon for criminal convictions which he contends were politically motivated. But he is barred from running as a candidate since the authorities said it was too late to add his name to the electoral register.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i3FRtPyz4ZJody4VuqdaHQb4I0vA?docId=CNG.8b4704ca68dfbd1ea5852f2a57e6043b.871&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i3FRtPyz4ZJody4VuqdaHQb4I0vA?docId=CNG.8b4704ca68dfbd1ea5852f2a57e6043b.871&hl=en)

**DPR Korea**

**UN teams assessing flood damage from heavy seasonal rains**

United Nations assessment teams in north-eastern DPRK have reached some of the areas most badly affected by two weeks of heavy seasonal rain and could report on the flood damage as early as today. The UN in DPRK today [said](http://kp.one.un.org/flooding-in-north-and-south-pyongan/) that provinces of North and South Pyongyang are “particularly severely affected.” The Government has reported, in its initial assessment, that there has been extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure with 45,948 people made homeless across the country, mostly in the two provinces.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45498&Cr=korea&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45498&Cr=korea&Cr1)**=**

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Tanzania raises stakes in border spat with Malawi**

Tanzania said on Thursday its armed forces were ready to protect the country against any foreign threat to its territory, raising the stakes in an escalating border dispute with Malawi. Tanzania is embroiled in a territorial wrangle with Malawi over the ownership of Lake Nyasa, which is known as Lake Malawi in the neighbouring country. Malawi, which sits to the west of Africa's third-largest lake, claims the entire northern half of the lake while Tanzania, to the east, says it owns half of the northern area. The southern half is shared between Malawi and Mozambique.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/25/tanzania-malawi-territory-idUSL6N0FV3PB20130725**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/25/tanzania-malawi-territory-idUSL6N0FV3PB20130725)

**DRC refugees put newly established Uganda camp under pressure**

More than 66,000 refugees have entered Uganda as the Ugandan rebel group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked their hometown Kamango in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday morning 11th July. At 4 am citizens of Kamango in DRC woke up to the sound of bullets in their hometown when the Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan-led Islamist rebel group attacked the civilians and DRC government army forcing people to flee their homes. Within only two days more than 66,000 refugees had entered Bundibugyo district in western Uganda.  
**DCA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/congolese-refugees-put-newly-established-uganda-camp-under-pressure**](http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/congolese-refugees-put-newly-established-uganda-camp-under-pressure)

**South Sudan**

**Kiir comes under pressure over new government**

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir on Thursday held consultations with a view to setting up a new government, two days after firing his entire cabinet, a government official said. He declined to say how long the consultations would last. On Thursday the African Union Commission, Canada, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, in a joint statement said they were following political developments in South Sudan with "apprehension."  
**AFP -** [**http://www.africareview.com/News/Kiir-under-pressure-over-new-government/-/979180/1926880/-/b8lcetz/-/index.html**](http://www.africareview.com/News/Kiir-under-pressure-over-new-government/-/979180/1926880/-/b8lcetz/-/index.html)

**Uganda**

**Government supplies food to avert hunger in Karamoja**

Government has dispatched 1200 metric tonnes of relief food including beans and posho to feed the people of Karamoja to cope with the hunger season. Barbara Oundo Nekesa, state minister for Karamoja affairs Thursday told the Parliamentary committee on presidential affairs that Karamoja has been hit by harsh climatic conditions. She added that the WFP has also supplied Karamoja with over 4000 metric tonnes of relief items.  
**New Vision -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/govt-supplies-food-avert-hunger-karamoja**](http://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/govt-supplies-food-avert-hunger-karamoja)

**Zimbabwe**

**Tsvangirai warns election body**

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on Sunday warned the body overseeing this month's presidential election he will be "closely monitoring" it to ensure a fair vote. He said vote rigging would only happen if it was allowed by officials from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). It was up to them to ensure fair play on July 31, said Tsvangirai. His warning came as concerns mount that the election will not be free and fair.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/21/tsvangirai-warns-zimbabwe-election-body/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/21/tsvangirai-warns-zimbabwe-election-body/)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Deadly Middle East virus unlikely to cause SARS-like epidemic**

Despite its high current death rate, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) that emerged in Saudi Arabia last year is unlikely to cause a SARS-like epidemic because it is not spreading as easily, scientists said on Friday. In the fullest clinical analysis yet of the new virus, British and Saudi researchers said that while there are many similarities between MERS and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) - which emerged in China in 2002 and killed around 800 people worldwide - there are also important differences. The WHO issued its travel guidance on Thursday for pilgrims going to the annual haj in Saudi Arabia and said the health risk posed by the MERS virus was "very low".

**Reuters** - [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130725222653-gsa0w**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130725222653-gsa0w)

**Lebanon border measures to be tightened**

Lebanon will impose strict border security measures in response to the growing influx of Syrian refugees to the country, outgoing Interior Minister Marwan Charbel said in remarks published Thursday. “The details of the measures and how they will be implemented will be discussed in the meeting of the Higher Defense Council next week,” Charbel told pan Arab Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper. Charbel also said that General Security would implement tighter measures at the border and inspect the legal documents of Syrians coming into the country.

**Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2013/Jul-25/224981-lebanon-border-measures-to-be-tightened-charbel.ashx#axzz2a8VFbxEU**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2013/Jul-25/224981-lebanon-border-measures-to-be-tightened-charbel.ashx#axzz2a8VFbxEU)

**Syrian opposition meets with Kerry, urges US to quickly provide weapons**

The leader of Syria’s Western-backed opposition group told U.S. Secretary John Kerry on Thursday that the United States must quickly supply rebels with promised weapons to prevent a military victory by President Bashar Assad’s regime. Ahmad Al-Jarba, in a statement sent out while he was still meeting with Kerry at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, called the situation in Syria “desperate” and said the opposition urgently needs American action “to push the international community to demand a political transition.”

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/kerry-comes-to-united-nations-to-tackle-2-of-worlds-worst-conflicts-congo-and-syria/2013/07/25/42720b52-f4ec-11e2-81fa-8e83b3864c36\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/kerry-comes-to-united-nations-to-tackle-2-of-worlds-worst-conflicts-congo-and-syria/2013/07/25/42720b52-f4ec-11e2-81fa-8e83b3864c36_story.html)

**Rape and domestic violence follow Syrian women into refugee camps**

Children have witnessed massacres, mothers seen their sons killed, families watched their homes looted and burned. But there is one act of violence that refugees from the Syrian crisis will not discuss. The conflict has been distinguished by a brutal targeting of women. The United Nations has gathered evidence of systematic sexual assault of women and girls by combatants in Syria, and describes rape as "a weapon of war". Outside the conflict, in sprawling camps and overloaded host communities, aid workers report a soaring number of incidents of domestic violence and rampant sexual exploitation.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/25/rape-violence-syria-women-refugee-camp**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/25/rape-violence-syria-women-refugee-camp)

**Egypt**

**Egypt braces for rival rallies, army signals crackdown**

A deeply polarized Egypt braced for bloodshed on Friday in rival mass rallies summoned by the army that ousted the state's first freely elected president and by the Islamists who back him. Both sides warned of a decisive struggle for the future of the Arab world's most populous country, convulsed by political and economic turmoil since the 2011 uprising that ended 30 years of autocratic rule by Hosni Mubarak.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/26/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE96O11Z20130726?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/26/us-egypt-protests-idUSBRE96O11Z20130726?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

**UN chief calls for Morsi's release**

UN leader Ban Ki-moon on Thursday called on the Egyptian military to free overthrown president Mohammed Morsi and other Islamic Brotherhood leaders, a spokesman said. Ban demanded that Morsi and his counterparts "be released or have their cases reviewed transparently without delay," said deputy UN spokesman Eduardo del Buey. Earlier, Ban urged all sides in the violence to exercise "maximum restraint."He has called on Egyptians and political parties "to work constructively to forge a consensus on the way forward through peaceful means."

**AFP** - [**http://www.rappler.com/world/34836-un-chief-calls-morsi-release**](http://www.rappler.com/world/34836-un-chief-calls-morsi-release)

**Court orders Morsi held over Hamas ties**

An Egyptian court has ordered that ousted president Mohamed Morsi be detained for questioning over suspected collaboration with Hamas, official MENA news agency reported Friday. Morsi will be quizzed on whether he collaborated with Hamas in attacks on police stations and prison breaks in early 2011, in which the Islamist and other political inmates escaped during the revolt against strongman Hosni Mubarak, it said. The alleged crimes are being investigated by a Cairo court that was tasked to determine how inmates broke out of a prison late January 2011, after accusations Morsi's Islamist group sought the help of the Hamas rulers of Gaza.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/26/egypt-prosecutor-orders-morsi-held-over-hamas-ties/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/26/egypt-prosecutor-orders-morsi-held-over-hamas-ties/)

**Two soldiers killed by gunmen in North Sinai -sources**

Two Egyptian soldiers were killed and four were injured on Thursday when gunmen opened fire on a military checkpoint near the North Sinai town of Sheikh Zuweid, security and medical sources told Reuters. Militants also attacked four other army sites in Sheikh Zuweid, which lies near Egypt's border with Israel and the Palestinian Gaza Strip, injuring at least three soldiers. In separate attacks in Sinai on Wednesday, two soldiers were killed in a gun battle and four militants died when their explosives-laden car detonated near a police base.  
**Reuters** - [**http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation-world/sns-rt-us-egypt-protests-sinai-20130724,0,1180863.story**](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation-world/sns-rt-us-egypt-protests-sinai-20130724,0,1180863.story)

**Iraq**

**UN awards Kuwait $1 billion from Iraq invasion fund**

A UN body that handles war reparations for Iraq’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait said Thursday it had handed over a further $1.07 billion (810 million euros) to the emirate. The payment, related to damage to oil facilities and resulting financial losses, brings to $42.3 billion the total sum handed out by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC). Some $10.1 billion awarded by the UNCC to a string of claimants still remains to be paid out.

**AFP** - [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/07/26/U-N-awards-Kuwait-1-billion-from-Iraq-invasion-fund-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/07/26/U-N-awards-Kuwait-1-billion-from-Iraq-invasion-fund-.html)

**Bombings kill 17 in Iraq**

Bombs exploded near shops and cafes in Iraq on Thursday night, killing at least 17 people, officials said. With the latest attacks, more than 700 people have been killed in unrest in Iraq in July, making it the deadliest month so far in a year marked by spiralling violence. The two blasts killed 15 people and wounded another 15. And in Madain, south of Baghdad, a bomb exploded in a cafe, killing at least two people and wounding at least 10.

**AFP -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/bombings-kill-17-iraq-officials**](http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/bombings-kill-17-iraq-officials)

**Israel**

**UN criticizes Israel's plan to displace Bedouins**

The U.N. human rights chief is criticizing an Israeli plan to demolish dozens of Bedouin villages and move up to 40,000 Arab residents to Israeli-built settlements. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says that a bill working its way through the Knesset would wipe out legitimate land claims for the Bedouins in the Negev desert in southern Israel. Israel says the moves are necessary to provide basic services that many nomadic Bedouins lack.

**AP** - [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/criticizes-israels-plan-displace-bedouins-19773341**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/criticizes-israels-plan-displace-bedouins-19773341)

**Sudan**

**Army and JEM clash in South Kordofan**

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) claim that they have taken control of the Jebel Adaiir mountain area in northern South Kordofan state, “captured four government soldiers, and eight vehicles after dispersing a government convoy” on Wednesday. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) deny this, claiming to have “inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment on the attacking rebels”. JEM spokesman Jibril Adam Bilal claims that the movement’s forces have taken control of Jebel Adaiir, near to Abu Karshola, after they “dispersed an SAF convoy of 84 vehicles, including two tanks”.  
**Radio Dabanga -** [**http://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/sudan-army-and-jem-clash-south-kordofan**](http://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/sudan-army-and-jem-clash-south-kordofan)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisia hit by strike, mourns opposition head slaying**

Tunisia marked a day of mourning on Friday after gunmen killed a leading opposition figure, sparking fresh political turmoil, protests and a general strike which brought Tunis to near standstill. National airline Tunisair and European airlines cancelled flights, with more street protests expected amid allegations of government connivance in Thursday's killing. MP Mohamed Brahmi, 58, of the leftist and nationalist Popular Movement, was assassinated outside his home in Ariana, near Tunis, by gunmen on a motorbike, witnesses said.

**AFP –** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-26/225145-tunisia-faces-street-protests-after-opposition-politician-slain.ashx#axzz2a8VFbxEU**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jul-26/225145-tunisia-faces-street-protests-after-opposition-politician-slain.ashx#axzz2a8VFbxEU)

**Tunisair cancels all flights to and from Tunisia on Friday**

Tunisia’s national carrier had cancelled all its flights to and from the country on Friday following the assassination of leading Tunisian critic Mohamed Brahmi. Tunisair said the decision comes in response to a strike call by the General Union of Tunisian Labor (UGTT), which called for a general strike across the country on Friday in protest at “terrorism, violence and murders”.

**Al Arabiya** - [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/07/26/Tunisair-cancels-all-flights-to-and-from-Tunisia-on-Friday-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/07/26/Tunisair-cancels-all-flights-to-and-from-Tunisia-on-Friday-.html)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Pakistan extends stay of Afghan refugees until 2015**

Pakistan on Thursday decided to extend the stay of Afghan refugees until 2015, officials said. The legal stay of nearly 1.6 million Afghan refugees expired on June 30 this year and the country's federal cabinet decided to extend the period for another two-and-half year. Pakistani minister for States and Frontier Regions, which also deals with the refugee affairs, in a tripartite meeting in Kabul this month, had in principle agreed to extend the period. However the decision was subject to the approval of the cabinet.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/26/c\_132574377.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-07/26/c_132574377.htm)

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan insurgents find new opening for IED attacks**

American officials say the shrinking US combat role in Afghanistan has given insurgents an opening to devise and carry out deadlier attacks. Insurgents are using bigger improvised bombs against US and coalition military vehicles and bases. The officials say that even though the number of attacks and the total casualties they cause has dropped, insurgents are able to spend more time preparing and staging some attacks. This means the attacks that succeed tend to be more lethal.

**AP** - [**http://www.salon.com/2013/07/25/afghan\_insurgents\_find\_new\_opening\_for\_ied\_attacks/**](http://www.salon.com/2013/07/25/afghan_insurgents_find_new_opening_for_ied_attacks/)

**Pakistan**

**Authorities find 20 dead militants after bombing village**

Pakistani authorities on Thursday found the bodies of 20 militants killed by military bombs in a restive tribal area earlier this week, an official said. The bodies were found during a "search operation" at Akakhel village in the Khyber tribal district bordering Afghanistan where Taliban and Lashkar-e-Islam militant groups are active. Pakistani troops have been carrying out a military operation against militants in the area since July 18 which concluded on Thursday.

**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/25/pakistan-finds-20-dead-militants-after-bombing-village/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/07/25/pakistan-finds-20-dead-militants-after-bombing-village/)

TACR

**Haiti**

**Cholera epidemic caused by UN**

A group of international scientists studying a deadly cholera epidemic in Haiti has concluded that peacekeepers from the United Nations were the most likely source of the disease. The epidemic, which began in late 2010, has so far claimed over 8,000 lives. The UN formally rejected compensation claims in February. This conclusion could have a major impact on a forthcoming multi-billion dollar compensation claim now being mounted by victims in a US court. This conclusion could have a major impact on a forthcoming multi-billion dollar compensation claim now being mounted by victims in a US court.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23460826#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-23460826)

WCAR

**Cameroon**

**Drought worsens child malnutrition in Cameroon - UNICEF mention**

Prolonged drought in northern Cameroon, an aspect of the changing climate that is affecting the whole Sahel region, has reduced food output, pushed up prices and increased the severity and prevalence of malnutrition among children, experts say. During a visit to north Cameroon’s Garoua district by UNICEF early this month, women and health officials at the Lamudam village health unit said local people had yet to recover from the drought-driven Sahel food crisis of 2012 and levels of malnutrition were alarming.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.trust.org/item/20130725133108-h2ae9/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20130725133108-h2ae9/?source=hpeditorial)

**DR Congo**

**UN says Congo neighbours involved in fighting**

Some of the 11 countries that signed a peace agreement for Africa's Great Lakes region were involved in recent fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN said on Thursday. "There are credible reports of some activities in support of armed groups by different signatory parties to the framework," Mary Robinson, the UN special envoy in the Great Lakes, told a UN Security Council meeting presided by US Secretary of State John Kerry. The countries supporting the fighting in Congo violated the Framework on Peace, Security and Cooperation signed in March, Robinson said.

**The Voice of Russia** - [**http://www.newsxs.com/en/go/12999478/Voice\_of\_Russia/**](http://www.newsxs.com/en/go/12999478/Voice_of_Russia/)

**Togo**

**Polls close in Togo's long-delayed parliamentary vote**

Togo voted Thursday in parliamentary elections delayed by months of protests, with the opposition seeking to weaken the ruling family's decades-long grip on power. Amid reports of delays and technical problems at several polling stations, the authorities shut down a private radio station for broadcasting allegations of ruling party fraud, sparking a protest by several hundred youths in the capital Lome. The west African nation's President Faure Gnassingbe said he had been briefed about "small technical problems" in some areas.

**AFP** - [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130725/polls-close-togos-long-delayed-parliamentary-vote**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130725/polls-close-togos-long-delayed-parliamentary-vote)

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