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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

[**Addressing gender issues in conflict and humanitarian action**](http://reliefweb.int/report/world/gender-issues-conflict-and-humanitarian-action)**- Oxfam**

A new Oxfam policy paper warns that if humanitarian interventions are not planned with gender dynamics in mind, the needs of those most under threat may not be adequately met. Humanitarian crises can affect women, men, girls and boys in radically different ways; changing social and cultural structures, and redefining women’s and men’s statuses – in both positive and negative ways. If humanitarian interventions are not planned with gender dynamics in mind, the needs of those most under threat may not be adequately met, and an opportunity to support positive change will be lost. That is why gender equality is central to humanitarian action. To address the different impacts of conflict and disasters on men, women, boys and girls and promote the potential for positive transformation of gender norms, humanitarian agencies must analyse, plan, and respond to crises in ways that address practical gender needs and promote women’s rights. Indeed all actors involved in emergencies – including donors, humanitarian agencies, governments, and civil society organisations - must promote gender equality as part of any response.

**Oxfam-** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/world/gender-issues-conflict-and-humanitarian-action#sthash.86voqj2y.dpuf**](http://reliefweb.int/report/world/gender-issues-conflict-and-humanitarian-action#sthash.86voqj2y.dpuf)

**United Nations**

**Health worker shortage threatens goal of seeing AIDS-free generation- WHO**

A new report from the WHO’s Global Health Workforce Alliance draws the clearest connection to date between health professionals and child survival. WHO estimates that by 2035, we will have a [**shortfall**](http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/forum/2013/3gf_pr/en/index.html) of roughly 12.9 million skilled health workers including midwives, nurses and physicians who both care for women, children, and families and manage the health system that support the community. For the community focused on eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, this is devastating. This shortage has the potential to undo the progress we have made toward reducing pediatric HIV by 38 percent since 2009 – and waylay our goal of seeing an AIDS-free generation.  Why? Because skilled health workers are the constant force who will treat adults living with HIV, educate parents on how to prevent passing it onto their partners and children, and manage the clinics at the center of community health.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131130231851-ezw1l/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131130231851-ezw1l/)

**WHO -** [**http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/forum/2013/3gf\_pr/en/index.html**](http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/forum/2013/3gf_pr/en/index.html)

**Towards an AIDS-Free Generation: Children and AIDS - Sixth Stocktaking Report, 2013-** **UNICEF**

More than 850,000 infants saved from HIV since 2005, but alarming trends seen among adolescents **UNICEF** report shows that new infections among adolescents could be halved by 2020 with targeted and increased investment NEW YORK, 29 November 2013 – A new report released today by UNICEF shows great progress has been made to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, with more than 850,000 new childhood infections averted between 2005 and 2012 in low- and middle-income countries. However, the new 2013 Stocktaking Report on Children and AIDS raises the alarm on adolescents, citing the need for increased global and national efforts to address HIV and AIDS among this vulnerable age group.

**UNICEF-** [**http://www.childrenandaids.org/**](http://www.childrenandaids.org/)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Armenians protest against Putin as he visits**

About 500 people marched through the capital of Armenia on Monday to denounce Russian President Vladimir Putin as he visited the country, and protested against plans to join a Moscow-led customs union, witnesses said. Some of the crowd in central Yerevan held banners declaring "Putin, go home!" or "No to the USSR!", a reference to Putin's efforts to bind former Soviet republics together more closely in economic and security alliances. Putin flew to the southern Caucasus country for talks on its decision in September to join the customs union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan but began his visit in another city. He was due in Yerevan later on Monday. The rally followed much larger protests in Ukraine, which suspended plans to sign a trade deals with the European Union last week and rebuild economic ties with Russia instead.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202120105-o7gxq/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202120105-o7gxq/?source=search)

**Ukraine**

**Ukrainians stage mass rally against Yanukovich's U-turn on Europe**

Ukrainian opposition leaders called on Sunday for President Viktor Yanukovich and his government to resign at a huge pro-Europe rally of about 350,000 people, marred by violent clashes between protesters and riot police. In the biggest protest in the capital Kiev since the "Orange Revolution" of nine years ago, opposition leaders denounced Yanukovich for walking away from a pact offered by the EU and swinging trade policy back toward Russia. "They stole the dream," heavyweight boxer-turned-opposition politician Vitaly Klitschko told crowds on Independence Square. The opposition urged people to demonstrate peacefully and avoid being provoked by the authorities into antagonising police.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131201174346-jvhqf/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131201174346-jvhqf/?source=hpbreaking)

EAPR

**Philippines**

**In Tacloban, vaccination campaign takes aim at deadly diseases – UNICEF mention**

In this city devastated nearly three weeks ago by the force of Typhoon Haiyan, debris and garbage are being collected, shops and banks are starting to open, the streets are heavy with traffic, and women are selling fruit by the roadsides. People are trying to get their lives back to normal. But the busiest places yesterday were the evacuation centres, where children were being vaccinated against measles and polio and given vitamin A supplements for strengthening the immune system. The Philippine Government, in collaboration with **UNICEF** and WHO, launched a vaccination campaign targeting 33,000 children under 5 in Tacloban to prevent the outbreak of disease. The first phase started in around 40 evacuation centres, and will be expanded in the coming days in order to reach all children and protect them from deadly diseases.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/philippines\_71143.html**](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/philippines_71143.html)

**Thailand**

**'Insurrection' warrant issued for Thai protest leader – police**

A Thai court Monday issued an arrest warrant for anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban for "insurrection" over his attempt to topple the administration, police said. The warrant was issued "for the charge of insurrection which shall be punished with death or life imprisonment", said Police Major General Chayut Thanataweerat, deputy metropolitan commander, in a televised statement. Some 56 people suffered from tear gas during clashes between opposition and police in Thailand. Three of the protesters were hospitalized, according to Thai Public Healthcare Ministry. Police in Bangkok managed to repel another attack of the opposition on the government’s headquarters using tear gas. As reported by Thai media, during the clashes one of the protesters injured his leg and was hospitalized. Earlier, law enforcement officers also used tear gas while they defended the building of the city police.

**VoA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_12\_02/Insurrection-warrant-issued-for-Thai-protest-leader-police-8188/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_12_02/Insurrection-warrant-issued-for-Thai-protest-leader-police-8188/)

[**Thai PM refuses calls to resign**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/02/bangkok-protesters-clashes-thailand)

Thailand's prime minister on Monday rejected the demands of anti-government protesters locked in street battles with police, saying what they want is unacceptable under the constitution. In a televised news conference, Yingluck Shinawatra said she was willing to "open every door" for negotiations to find a peaceful resolution to Thailand's biggest political crisis in years. But protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, who met Yingluck on Sunday night, has said he won't be satisfied with her resignation or new elections. Instead, he wants an unelected "people's council" to pick a new prime minister. "I don't know how we can proceed" with that, she said. "We don't know how to make it happen. Right now we don't see any way to resolve the problem under the constitution," she said in the brief 12-minute news conference.

**AP -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/02/bangkok-protesters-clashes-thailand**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/02/bangkok-protesters-clashes-thailand)

**34 countries, regions issue travel alert for Thailand**

A total of 34 countries and regions have issued warning for travel to Thailand where political tension has run high. According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, China, the United States, France, Australia and Japan were among those countries and regions issuing travel alert. Anti-govenrment protests in Bangkok continued on Monday with protestors trying to seize more state offices in their bid to topple the government.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/02/c\_132935664.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/02/c_132935664.htm)

**Myanmar**

**Suu Kyi urges 'freedom from fear' on World Aids Day**

Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi called on World Aids Day Sunday for an end to discrimination against those living with the disease as experts warned against complacency in fighting the global scourge.

Speaking as the UNAids global advocate for people living with HIV/Aids, Ms Suu Kyi drew parallels between the plight of sufferers and her own struggle for democracy. "The fight against discrimination is an extension of our fight for freedom from fear," said the Myanmar opposition leader and democracy icon. "My simple message as the global ambassador for zero discrimination is it all starts in the mind and in the heart. There must be less calculation and more warmth, more love, more affection, more compassion

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/suu-kyi-urges-freedom-fear-world-aids-day-20131202**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/suu-kyi-urges-freedom-fear-world-aids-day-20131202)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Missing Mozambique plane found crashed in Namibia**

All 34 people on board a Mozambique Airlines flight to Angola were killed after the plane crashed in a game park in northeast Namibia, a Namibian official said on Saturday. The plane was discovered after it went missing on Friday. A Mozambique Airlines flight en route to Angola crashed in a game park in northeast Namibia, killing all 34 people on board, a Namibian official confirmed on Saturday. The charred wreckage of the plane, which went [missing](http://www.france24.com/en/20131129-mozambique-plane-goes-missing-with-34-board) on Friday, was found in the Bwabwata National

Park, Namibian Police Force Deputy Commissioner Willy Bampton told the Reuters news agency.

**FRANCE 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131130-mozambique-airlines-plane-crashes-namibia-34-killed**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131130-mozambique-airlines-plane-crashes-namibia-34-killed)

**Somalia**

**Somali PM loses parliamentary confidence vote**

Somali lawmakers voted to oust the prime minister Monday amid furious power struggles among top leaders that could undermine efforts to rebuild the war torn nation and tackle Islamist insurgents. Abdi Farah Shirdon, prime minister of the Horn of Africa nation for just over a year, lost the confidence vote in parliament after he resisted President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s demand that he resign. “The motion has passed,” said speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari, noting that 184 out of 249 lawmakers in parliament voted to sack Shirdon. “The current prime minster and his government will continue with their work until a new prime minster and a cabinet is nominated,” Jawari added. The precise cause of the power struggle is unclear, but politicians have pointed to wrangling over alleged corruption, personal loyalties as well as Somalia’s complex clan politics, where each community expects to be represented in the corridors of power.

**AFP -** [**http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/12/somali-pm-loses-parliamentary-confidence-vote/**](http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/12/somali-pm-loses-parliamentary-confidence-vote/)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Central American mothers look for missing children**

Fifty Central American mothers have gathered in Guatemala to begin their trek through Mexico to look for their missing sons and daughters who disappeared there on their way to the United States. The mothers from Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala will cross into Mexico on Sunday, and travel as far north as the state of San Luis Potosi. Caravan organizer Elisabel Hernandez said Saturday that this year the mothers won't make it all the way to Mexico's northern border states because authorities say they can't guarantee their safety. This is the seventh year the group has made the trek hoping to find their loved ones or at least bring attention to the plight of migrants who have disappeared in Mexico.

**Reuters -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/central-american-mothers-missing-children-21058805**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/central-american-mothers-missing-children-21058805)

**Dominican Republic launches migrant children plan**

The Dominican Republic on Saturday launched a plan putting into motion a recent court ruling that could strip the citizenship of children born to migrants living there illegally. The plan states that those affected by the ruling have 18 months to request Dominican citizenship starting in June 2014. The plan, however, does not provide details on what kind of requirements or conditions should be met. President Danilo Medina signed the plan days before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights holds a five-day hearing to receive complaints and testimony from those affected by the ruling. The ruling states that those born in the Dominican Republic since 1929 to foreigners living illegally in the country are not automatically granted citizenship. Human rights groups have decried the plan and the ruling, saying that an estimated 200,000 people could lose their citizenship, the majority of those of Haitian descent. The government maintains that only some 24,000 would be affected.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dominican-republic-launches-migrant-children-plan-21058002**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/dominican-republic-launches-migrant-children-plan-21058002)

**Colombia**

**Colombia steps up campaign to stop FGM among Embera Indians**

Colombia is pushing ahead with a national campaign to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) among the country’s Embera indigenous tribe, to prevent physical injury and even death that can result from the procedure, the United Nations has said. Since the 2007 death of a newborn Embera girl from an infection after undergoing FGM, Colombian authorities and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have been working with several Embera communities in the country’s western Risaralda province to eradicate the practice. As a result of Colombia's five-year campaign, leaders representing 25,000 Emberas living in two indigenous reserves in the Risaralda province vowed to stop FGM in their communities last year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131129172038-iz6y0/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131129172038-iz6y0/?source=hpeditorial)

**Cuba**

**Heavy rain lashes Havana, killing two people**

Heavy rain has been battering Cuba since last week, flooding streets and leaving at least two people dead. A number of buildings have collapsed in Havana, authorities say. A 54-year-old man and a 60-year-old woman are reported to have died as a house crumbled in central Havana. A 54-year-old man and a 60-year-old woman are reported to have died as a house crumbled in central Havana.

Up to 200mm (7.8in) of rain fell overnight and the Cuban meteorological service has forecast more heavy rain for Saturday, particularly in the western and central regions. Many streets in the capital remain submerged, as the authorities assess the damage to other derelict buildings in the city.

**BBC** - [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-25171388**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-25171388)

**Honduras**

**Thousands take to the streets in Honduras to protest election result**

Honduras' defeated leftist presidential candidate, the wife of ousted former leader Manuel Zelaya, led thousands of supporters onto the streets of Tegucigalpa on Sunday to protest an election result she has called fraudulent. The demonstration by a crowd estimated at several thousand people passed off peacefully, which analysts said offered some hope for political stability. The Central American country is plagued by violence and has the world's highest murder rate.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202033136-8jz39/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202033136-8jz39/?source=hpbreaking)

**Venezuela**

**Venezuelan oil diplomacy curbed by economic crisis**

The late President Hugo Chavez's dream of leveraging Venezuela's oil wealth to spread revolution across Latin America is crumbling under the weight of an economic crisis that is forcing his hand-picked successor to cut back on generous foreign aid. Signs of the country's waning influence are becoming more apparent. In early November, Guatemala withdrew from the Petrocaribe oil alliance launched by Chavez, saying it didn't receive the ultra-low financing rates it had been promised by Venezuela when it first sought to join the 18-nation pact in 2008. Also in recent weeks, representatives of Brazil and Colombia have held meetings with their Venezuelan counterparts to collect overdue payment for food, manufactured goods and other imports. While Venezuela has fallen behind on payments before, the latest cash crunch is more severe, and the economic outlook more uncertain, than any time in 15 years of socialist rule.

**AP -** [**http://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Venezuelan-oil-diplomacy-curbed-by-economic-crisis-5026720.php**](http://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Venezuelan-oil-diplomacy-curbed-by-economic-crisis-5026720.php)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israel says returns fire into Syria on occupied Golan Heights**

The Israeli army fired into Syria on Monday after its troops were shot at on the occupied Golan Heights, the military said. "Gunfire was opened from Syria towards IDF (Israel Defence Forces) soldiers in the central Golan Heights. The force retaliated towards the threat and a hit was confirmed," a military statement said. There were no Israeli casualties in the incident. An Israeli military source said that the brief exchange of fire happened near the Quneitra border crossing and that the Israeli troops said they were fired on by a Syrian soldier. The army was still checking whether its troops were the target of the gunfire, the source said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202102425-smbdw**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202102425-smbdw)

**Arab Bedouins protest against Israeli plan to move them into towns**

Hundreds of Bedouin Arabs and their supporters clashed with Israeli forces on Saturday in protests against a government plan to force 40,000 Bedouins living in the southern Negev region to leave their villages. The plan has not only angered the Bedouins but also spurred many other young Arab citizens of Israel to associate it with Israel's occupation of Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and so identify themselves more closely with demands for a Palestinian state. The historic heart of Haifa, Israel's northern port city on the Mediterranean, was brought to a standstill as hundreds of Israeli Arabs scuffled with scores of security forces.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131130201614-3mxvx/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131130201614-3mxvx/?source=hptop)

**Iraq**

**Attacks kill 14 across Iraq, capping off another bloody month**

A triple bombing struck the funeral of the son of an anti-Al-Qaeda tribal leader in a town northeast of Baghdad on Sunday, one of several attacks across the country that left 14 people dead, Iraqi officials said. The attacks capped off a [bloody month in the country](http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/11/25/at-least-27-killedacrossiraqinlatestwaveofviolence.html). At least 659 Iraqis were killed in the past 30 days, according to the UN, a drop from October, but still one of the deadliest months in years. The biggest blast on Sunday was at a funeral in Wajihiya, about 45 miles from the capital. The attack killed 11 and wounded 45. The funeral was for a local Sunni tribal sheik's son, who died a day earlier.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/12/1/attacks-kill-14-acrossiraqcappingoffanotherbloodymonth.html**](http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/12/1/attacks-kill-14-acrossiraqcappingoffanotherbloodymonth.html)

**In Iraq, meeting the needs of Syrian refugees living with disabilities** - **UNICEF mention**

A new camp that will have facilities for Syrian refugees living with disabilities is under construction in Sulimaniyah, Iraq. A **UNICEF** officer ensures families are as comfortable as possible in the meantime. There are nearly 2,500 Syrians living in Arbat refugee camp just outside of Sulimaniyah, and many of them, like Suliman Gorgis’s family, live with disabilities. Suliman oldest son Yousef was paralysed at birth. Another son, Mohammed, has Down Syndrome. A third son, Yasser, walks with difficulty because of a hip injury. To ensure that they are as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, UNICEF Water and Sanitation Officer Atheer Al Yaseen has been working with the Gorgis family since they crossed the border from the Syrian Arab Republic a couple of months ago. Getting a bed for Yousef was the first step.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq\_71141.html?utm\_source=unicef\_news&utm\_medium=rss&utm\_campaign=rss\_link**](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq_71141.html?utm_source=unicef_news&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=rss_link)

**Lebanon**

**Two days of fighting kill 10 in Lebanon's Tripoli**

Ten people, including a woman and an off-duty soldier, have been killed in two days of sectarian clashes in northern Lebanon linked to the war in neighbouring Syria, a security source said Sunday.  The fighting in the northern port city of Tripoli also wounded 49 people, including 11 soldiers, the source told AFP.  On Sunday four people were killed, two of whom were in a truck when they were shot dead by a sniper, while the third was the off-duty soldier and the last victim a woman who died of injuries sustained the previous day.  Their deaths came after a day of fierce clashes that lasted into the night, leaving six dead.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/88014/World/Region/Two-days-of-fighting-kill--in-Lebanons-Tripoli-.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/88014/World/Region/Two-days-of-fighting-kill--in-Lebanons-Tripoli-.aspx)

**Libya**

**Soldier killed, army base attacked in Benghazi**

Unidentified assailants gunned down a soldier outside his home and attacked a special forces base in Libya's second city Benghazi during the night, a security official said on Saturday. There were no casualties in the attack on the base even though the assailants used rocket-propelled grenades, sub machineguns and an anti-tank mine, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Further east in the town of Derna, regarded as an Islamist stronghold, unidentified assailants blew up offices used by non-governmental organisations in a residential block, without causing any casualties.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/soldier-killed-army-base-attacked-in-libya-s-benghazi/article1-1157481.aspx**](http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/soldier-killed-army-base-attacked-in-libya-s-benghazi/article1-1157481.aspx)

**Sudan**

**Several said dead in air raid in Darfur: peacekeepers**

Several people have been reported killed in an air strike in Sudan's volatile Darfur region, international peacekeepers said Saturday. "UNAMID has received information from local sources that several people were killed by an alleged air strike while travelling from Tabit to Shangil Tobaya," a public information officer from the African Union-UN Mission in Darfur told AFP. "The mission is working to ascertain the veracity of this incident" on Friday, the official said. Sudan's military spokesman, Sawarmi Khaled Saad, said no aircraft had been used in that area, although rebels had been active nearby.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131130-several-said-dead-air-raid-sudans-darfur-peacekeepers**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131130-several-said-dead-air-raid-sudans-darfur-peacekeepers)

**Syria**

**Children escape as mortar hits French school in Damascus**

A mortar shell hit the French school in Damascus on 1 December, while classes were in session, but caused no injuries, a school official reported. "A mortar shell landed on the chimney of a classroom around 9:00 am. No one was hurt but the windows shattered and the walls cracked," Bashir Oneiz said. School nurse Aline Farah said students were in class when the mortar hit. "It was a miracle that no one was hurt, neither students nor teachers nor employees," she said. The Charles de Gaulle school in the upscale central district of Mazzeh is the only foreign school still open in Damascus. It has some 220 students, down from a pre-war population of 900. It caters both to Syrian students and the children of a few remaining foreigners living in the country despite a brutal 32-month conflict between the government and rebels.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131201-children-escape-mortar-hits-french-school-damascus**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131201-children-escape-mortar-hits-french-school-damascus)

**Syria death toll hits nearly 126,000-monitoring group**

The death toll in Syria's civil war has risen to at least 125,835, more than a third of them civilians, but the real figure is probably much higher, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday. The pro-opposition monitoring group also appealed to UN SG Ban Ki-moon and "all people in the international community who have a conscience" to increase their efforts to end the 2-1/2 year war. The conflict began as peaceful protests against four decades of rule by President Bashar al-Assad's family, but under a fierce security force crackdown, turned into an armed insurgency whose sectarian dimensions have echoed across the Middle East.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202130109-xc662**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202130109-xc662)

**State of Palestine**

**Hamas cancels anniversary rally over economic woes**

The Gaza Strip's ruling Hamas movement canceled its upcoming anniversary rally Sunday, saying it was inappropriate to celebrate at a time of deep economic woes in the crowded seaside territory.

It was the first time the Islamic militant group has canceled the festivities since seizing power six years ago. Hamas has used the elaborate annual commemoration of its December 1987 founding to demonstrate its control, with large military-style gatherings attended by hundreds of thousands of people. The decision illustrated just how hard the Gaza economy has been hit since Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, Hamas' main patron, was ousted in a July military coup. Morsi hails from the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas' parent movement, and moved to improve ties with the Islamic militant group.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/hamas-cancels-anniversary-rally-over-economic-woes-082845555.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/hamas-cancels-anniversary-rally-over-economic-woes-082845555.html)

**Yemen**

**North Yemen fighting kills more than 120**

Fighting between Shiite Houthi rebels and Sunni Salafis in northern Yemen has killed more than 120 and a government official in charge of enforcing a ceasefire accused the Houthis of breaking the truce, a newspaper said on Sunday. The latest round of fighting between the Houthis and Salafis has added to the challenges facing US allied Yemen, already grappling with a southern separatist movement and an insurgency by Islamist militants linked to al Qaeda. Amin al-Hemyari, head of government observers monitoring a ceasefire reached last month, said the death toll among Salafis in the town of Damaj had risen to more than 120, with dozens wounded, the government-run al-Thawra newspaper said.

He said no casualty figures were available for the Houthis.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131201171143-jnpjh/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131201171143-jnpjh/?source=hpeditorial)

**Six Qaeda-linked militants, three soldiers killed in Yemen clashes**

Six suspected al Qaeda militants and three Yemeni soldiers were killed in clashes in Yemen's eastern region of Hadramout on Monday, the defence ministry said. Last year, the Yemeni army, with US backing, drove al Qaeda militants and their allies from some of their southern strongholds. But the insurgents have since regrouped and mounted attacks on government officials and installations.

Maintaining stability in impoverished Yemen, which is also struggling with southern separatists and northern rebels, is a priority for Washington and Gulf states because of its proximity to major shipping routes and Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202104156-4t8h2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202104156-4t8h2)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**UN cites increasing danger for aid workers**

The UN expressed concern about increasing danger to aid workers in Afghanistan Sunday, after nine were killed in two incidents within a week, [dpa](http://www.dpa.de/) reported. Six Afghan employees for a French aid agency were executed by militants in the northern province of Faryab, and three others working on a village development project in the southern province of Uruzgan were killed by a bomb last week.

"The tragic incidents illustrate the growing risks surrounding the delivery of aid and the increasing disrespect for humanitarian personnel in Afghanistan," a UN report said. "I am extremely concerned with this trend at a time when the country is in the midst of a difficult transition that may lead to increased humanitarian needs," said Mark Bowden, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan.

**DPA -** [**http://en.trend.az/news/un/2217131.html**](http://en.trend.az/news/un/2217131.html)

**OCHA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Afghanistan\_131130\_HC%20Statement.pdf**](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Afghanistan_131130_HC%20Statement.pdf)

**Lack of cash and monitors add to Afghan election troubles**

Organisers of Afghanistan's make-or-break presidential election next year say poor security, a shortage of monitors and funding holes are undermining their ability to safeguard the process from the widespread fraud that marred the last poll in 2009. Another deeply flawed election would undermine the attempts of Washington and its allies to foster democracy ahead of the withdrawal of foreign troops later in 2014. "The foundation of the election due to technical issues was not done in the proper way," said Noor Mohammad Noor, spokesman for the Independent Election Commission (IEC). "We need measures to secure the process through observers." The reduced budget is partly because some land and equipment that had to be bought last time is being reused and fewer foreign advisers are needed, say the UN and IEC chief Yousof Nooristani.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131201204624-0q3th/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131201204624-0q3th/?source=dpagehead)

**Karzai accuses US of cutting Afghan military supplies in security row**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai accused his US ally on Sunday of withholding military supplies to press him to sign a bilateral security deal that will shape the US military presence after most foreign troops leave in 2014. Washington, which swiftly denied the assertion, has said that unless the pact is signed promptly, it could pull out most of its troops, as it did in Iraq two years ago. "The cutting of fuel supplies and support services to the Afghan army and police is being used as a means of pressure to ensure Afghanistan ... signs the Bilateral Security Agreement," a statement from Karzai's palace said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131201174747-srlbn/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131201174747-srlbn/?source=hpagehead)

**Bangladesh**

**Bangladesh opposition extends nationwide blockade till Thursday**

Bangladesh's main opposition has extended ongoing 72-hour nationwide blockade till Thursday evening to push for the postponement of the scheduled election. Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) spokesperson Salahuddin Ahmed made the announcement through a video message from a secret location. BNP and its allies on Friday night declared the 72-hour road, rail and waterway blockade from Saturday morning in protest against the announcement of schedule for the 10th parliamentary election. Despite opposition threat to boycott the poll, Bangladesh Election Commission has announced that the country's new parliamentary election will be held on Jan. 5 next year.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/02/c\_132935533.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/02/c_132935533.htm)

**Political brinkmanship 'driving Bangladesh to the edge,' UN rights chief says**  
Deeply worried by rising levels of violence in Bangladesh, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay today urged the country's political leaders to set their differences aside, immediately halt “destructive brinkmanship” and use their influence to ease the unrest. According to a press release issued by Ms. Pillay's Office, in recent weeks, as the major parties in Bangladesh have failed to resolve their differences over the conduct of elections, supporters of both parties have been clashing with each other and with the security forces. Scores of people have been killed, hundreds injured, and there has been extensive destruction of property. “In the past week, we have seen acts as extreme as protestors throwing molotov cocktails onto public buses without allowing the occupants to escape, leaving women and children with horrific burns,” the High Commissioner said. “Such levels of violence are deeply shocking for the Bangladeshi people, the vast majority of whom want - and deserve - a peaceful and inclusive election.”

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46633&Cr=bangladesh&Cr1=#.UpxnQLPfqHs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46633&Cr=bangladesh&Cr1=#.UpxnQLPfqHs)

**Pakistan**

**Police guarding polio team shot dead**

Police say gunmen have fired on police officers protecting a team of polio workers in northwest Pakistan, killing one and wounding another. A Peshawar police official says the two officers came under attack on 30 November as they were returning to a police station after doing duty with the polio workers on the outskirts of the city, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. No group claimed responsibility, but militants have killed more than a dozen polio workers and police protecting them over the last year in Pakistan.

**AP -** [**http://www.wboc.com/story/24100786/police-guarding-polio-team-in-pakistan-shot-dead**](http://www.wboc.com/story/24100786/police-guarding-polio-team-in-pakistan-shot-dead)

**Pakistan**

**40 killed, 183 injured in 28 bomb attacks across Pakistan in Nov.**

At least 40 people were killed and 183 others injured in 28 bomb blasts across Pakistan during the month of November as the number of deadly attacks dropped after the government took initiatives to start peace dialogue with the Pakistani Taliban, according to official statistics. Out of total 28 bomb attacks, four incidents were of suicide nature that killed 14 people and injured 38 others in different areas of the country. At least 100 percent drop in number of causalities were observed in November as compared with the previous month of October in which 81 people lost their lives and 243 others sustained injuries in 33 bomb attacks. During the month of November no high official came under bomb attack while in October a provincial law minister of northwestern restive province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was killed along with 11 others in a suicide attack.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/02/c\_132935255.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-12/02/c_132935255.htm)

WCAR

**Across WCAR**

**Ivory Coast targets Gbagbo followers in Ghana**

Ivory Coast sent hit squads to Ghana to kill followers of former strongman Laurent Gbagbo and paid Liberian mercenaries not to stage cross-border attacks for Gbagbo, a UN report said. The Ghana government told UN sanctions experts they had "foiled" at least two missions this year by Ivory Coast agents to kill or abduct Gbagbo associates, said the report obtained by AFP on Sunday. "The Ghanaian authorities claimed to have foiled at least two such missions in early 2013," said the report. Payments were made to Liberian mercenaries and Ivory Coast militia commanders in a bid to head off attacks aimed at destabilising President Alassane Ouattara's government. The report to the Security Council, by experts who monitor UN sanctions against Liberia, cast new light on efforts by Ouattara's government to blunt the threat from Gbagbo, whose refusal to concede defeat in a 2010 presidential election sparked unrest in which thousands died.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/12/ivory-coast-targets-gbagbo-followers-ghana-201312252716257571.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/12/ivory-coast-targets-gbagbo-followers-ghana-201312252716257571.html)

**CAR**

**UK offers lifeline as crisis worsens**

Britain reported that it would provide $16.4 million in aid to the CAR to help tackle the humanitarian crisis in the country. The support package of emergency healthcare, clean water and logistical support is intended to boost the relief programmes of international aid agencies operating in the strife-torn nation. "It is clear the situation in the CAR is deteriorating rapidly with reports of violence and tension between communities," said International Development Secretary Justine Greening. "Hundreds of thousands of people have already fled their homes and are entirely dependent on outside relief.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131130/britain-announces-aid-central-african-republic**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131130/britain-announces-aid-central-african-republic)

**UN peacekeeping mission needed to avoid mass slaughter- Amnesty Int**

The UN SC has no time to waste to authorize a robust peacekeeping force for deployment to the Central African Republic to protect civilians from the violence and chaos engulfing the country, Amnesty International said today. This week, the Security Council is expected to give French and AU troops on the ground an initial mandate to rein in the security forces and armed groups responsible for spiralling human rights violations and abuses. But a full-fledged UN peacekeeping operation may be necessary to overcome the current crisis. “The consequences of this life-and-death decision will affect an entire country. If the Security Council does not act now to stem the horrific cycle of violence in the Central African Republic, that failure will hang heavily on the international community for years to come,” said Salil Shetty, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

**AI - -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/un-peacekeeping-mission-needed-avoid-mass-slaughter#sthash.ows0N6e7.dpuf**](http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/un-peacekeeping-mission-needed-avoid-mass-slaughter#sthash.ows0N6e7.dpuf)

**Mali**

**Separatist rebels end ceasefire after clashes**

Separatist rebels said they were ending a five-month-old ceasefire with Mali's government and taking up arms following violence in the northern city of Kidal. The declaration came a day after Malian troops clashed with stone-throwing protesters who blocked a visit by the prime minister to the city, a northern rebel stronghold. Several demonstrators were wounded but there were conflicting accounts of how the incident started. "The political and military wings of the Azawad (MNLA, MAA and HCUA) declare the lifting of the ceasefire with the central government in Bamako," said a statement by Attaye Ag Mohamed, one of the founders of the MNLA groups. "All our military positions are on alert," he added.

**Reuters** - [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/uk-mali-rebels-idUKBRE9AS0RG20131129**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/uk-mali-rebels-idUKBRE9AS0RG20131129)

**UN mission calls for restraint, return to negotiations after clash in Kidal**

The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali ([MINUSMA](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minusma)) strongly condemned the latest violence in Kidal, in the northern part of the country, and called for restraint. MINUSMA said that “incidents of a serious nature” took place yesterday despite a security plan coordinated by the Government in cooperation with the UN Mission and support from the French security mission in Mali, known as Serval. “MINUSMA, in close cooperation with Serval, assisted the evacuation of three of the injured for medical care in Gao,” the Mission said in a statement. The violence broke out ahead of the planned arrival of Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly and a Government delegation to Kidal.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/html/story.asp?NewsID=46621&Cr=+Mali+&Cr1=#.Upw8eLMo5Hg**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp/html/story.asp?NewsID=46621&Cr=+Mali+&Cr1=#.Upw8eLMo5Hg)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram kills 24 people in two separate attacks**

Suspected Boko Haram militants killed 24 people in two separate attacks in northern Nigeria, eyewitnesses said, just as the military vowed to ramp up security over Christmas. Seven fishermen were ambushed and killed in the first attack in Baga, a fishing community on Lake Chad in Borno state, one of three in the northeast of the country under emergency rule since May this year. Seventeen people died in a separate attack on Thursday, other eyewitnesses said, when gunmen in pick-up trucks torched more than 100 shops and vehicles in the Sabon Gari area of the Damboa district, 90 km from the state capital, Maiduguri. There was no immediate confirmation of either attack from the military or local authorities.

**AFP -**  [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigerias-boko-haram-kills-24-two-separate-attacks-210950312.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigerias-boko-haram-kills-24-two-separate-attacks-210950312.html)

**Government air strikes kill dozens of Boko Haram militants**

Dozens of Boko Haram militants were killed in Nigerian airforce air strikes in the Sambisa Forest area of Borno state, in north-east Nigeria, said a military spokesperson. Other sources instead indicate a movement of units of the armed group toward the border with Cameroon. The army spokesman told reporters that the air strikes destroyed some Boko Haram bases in the area, killing dozens of “terrorists”. Other sources indicated that the bombings took place last weekend and concluded Monday.

**MISNA -** [**http://www.misna.org/en/other/boko-haram-air-strikes-on-border-with-cameroon-29-11-2013-813.html**](http://www.misna.org/en/other/boko-haram-air-strikes-on-border-with-cameroon-29-11-2013-813.html)