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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Needs of people with disabilities neglected in disasters - UN survey**

Most people living with disabilities are not prepared for disasters, nor are they consulted about their needs in emergencies, making them more likely to be killed or injured, according to a global survey released by the UN on Thursday. For example, only 20% of the 5,450 respondents from 126 countries said they could evacuate immediately and without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster, such as a storm or flood. The rest would have a degree of difficulty in doing so, while 6 percent would not be able to leave their homes at all. The survey also showed that 71% of respondents have no personal preparedness plan for disasters. Margareta Wahlström, head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), described the survey results as "shocking."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131010080310-zj6k1/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131010080310-zj6k1/?source=hpagehead)

**UNISDR -** [**http://www.unisdr.org/archive/35032**](http://www.unisdr.org/archive/35032)

**UN peacekeeping missions threatened by corruption – report**

Corruption threatens the success of UN international peacekeeping missions and causes wastage of donor money, an anti-graft group said on Wednesday in calling for new policies to address bribery and fraud. The UN currently provides no clear guidance on corruption in its missions and its operations, which can allow graft to take hold and undermine the effectiveness of the UN’s work over the long term, Transparency International UK’s Defense and Security programme said in its report. “Ignoring the threats of corruption to peacekeeping missions embeds it more deeply and damages the legitimacy of key institutions,” said Mark Pyman, the lead author of the report “Corruption and Peacekeeping.” The report identifies 28 types of corruption that threaten peacekeeping operations, ranging from contract fraud to sexual abuse, and proposes a framework that the UN could use in addressing the issue and strengthening the effectiveness of its operations.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131009181707-g6mvb/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131009181707-g6mvb/?source=hptop)

**Sierra Leone takes precautions against al-shabaab**  
Sierra Leone officials say they are bolstering security in response to the heightened threat posed by al-Shabaab, expressing concern the country could be targeted because of its support for peacekeeping operations in Somalia. Francis Munu, police inspector general, said at a meeting Wednesday that new security measures would require government offices to issue identity cards for their staff and maintain visitors' logs, while petty traders would be kept away from government buildings. Sierra Leone deployed an 850-member battalion to the AU mission in Somalia earlier this year.   
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sierra-leone-takes-precautions-al-shabab-20516012**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sierra-leone-takes-precautions-al-shabab-20516012)

**Sudan/South Sudan**

**Abyei community remains determined to vote in October**

In a bid to capture the attention of the international community, citizens of the oil-contested border region of Abyei took to the streets in large numbers on Tuesday, expressing their readiness to cast their vote this month. Protesters, which included participants from the general public, members of civil society organisations, faith-based groups, traditional leaders, youth and women’s groups, as well as trade and student union representatives in the area, delivered a letter to the UN Interim Force for Abyei (UNISFA), outlining their grievances.   
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48381**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48381)

CEE/CIS

**Azerbaijan**

**President Aliyev wins third term; election marred by serious shortcomings**

The vote that handed Azeri President Ilham Aliyev a third term was marred by serious shortcomings and failed to fully meet Azerbaijan's commitments to genuine and democratic elections, international observers said on Thursday. The election on Wednesday "was undermined by limitations on the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association" and by allegations of candidate and voter intimidation, monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said.

**Reuters -** [**http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCABRE99909120131010**](http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCABRE99909120131010)

**Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Bosnian experts find another mass grave**

Bosnian authorities say have they found a second mass grave near one they have been working on for the past month and from which they have so far excavated the remains of about 130 Bosniaks and Croats killed during the 1992-95 war. The prosecutor's office said Wednesday teams will now work on both graves and that according to available evidence, the bodies found so far belong to non-Serbs killed in and around the northwestern town of Prijedor in 1992. Some 1,200 Bosniaks and Croats are still missing from the area of Prijedor. Most of them were killed in two nearby concentration camps by Serb forces seeking to eliminate non-Serbs from the parts of the country they controlled.

**AP -** [**http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\_id=2&objectid=11137798&ref=rss**](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11137798&ref=rss)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Floods kill more than 100**

A Cambodian disaster relief official says at least 104 people have died in recent floods caused by heavy rains and the Mekong River overflowing its banks. Disaster management committee spokesman Keo Vy said Wednesday that floods in the past several weeks have affected some 1.5 million people in 17 of the country's 24 provinces. He warned that more floods still threaten the country. The Cambodian Red Cross says more than 21,700 families have left their homes due to flooding.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/floods-cambodia-kill-100-20515956**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/floods-cambodia-kill-100-20515956)

**DPR of Korea**

**North Korea replaces hardline military chief**

North Korea has replaced its hard line military chief just a few months after his appointment, the latest in an ongoing reshuffle of top personnel that analysts say is meant to solidify ruler Kim Jong Un's grip on power. The name of new military chief, Ri Yong Gil, was revealed Thursday in a Korean Central News Agency dispatch listing top officials who accompanied Kim Jong Un to the mausoleum housing his father and grandfather. Ri replaces Kim Kyok Sik, the former commander of battalions believed responsible for attacks on South Korea in 2010 that killed 50 people. It was only in May that state media dispatches first identified Kim as the military's general chief of staff.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korea-replaces-hard-line-military-chief-20525999**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korea-replaces-hard-line-military-chief-20525999)

**Philippines**

**Two suspected MNLF members killed in south**

Two suspected members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) were killed Thursday morning in an encounter with government troops conducting clearing operation in southern Philippine city of Zamboanga, local police said. Zamboanga Peninsula Police public information chief Ariel Huesca said that the incident occurred at around 8:20 a.m. local time at Sta. Catalina village in Zamboanga City. While members of the 23rd Marine Company were conducting clearing operation, they chanced upon the two rebels and convinced them to surrender but they allegedly instead fired towards the government troops, he said, adding that exchanges of fire ensued, resulting in the death of the suspects. The military recovered two M14 rifles and several MNLF identification cards from the slain rebels, Huesca said.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/10/c\_132786114.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/10/c_132786114.htm)

**Thailand**

**Flood kills 34 people**

A total of 34 people were killed while 29 of 77 provinces have been hit in the flood, the Thai authorities revealed Thursday. A total of 166 districts, mostly in the North, Northeastern and Central, are now hit by floods, affecting more than 1.7 million people. Moreover, about 6,900 houses, 450,000 acres of farmland, 2,310 roads and 145 bridges were damaged by the floodwater, according to the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department. The flood, caused by seasonal monsoon and depression, has affected the country since mid-September. Hardest hit are eastern Sa Kaeo, Prachin Buri and Chachoengsao provinces.

**Xinhua -** [**http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/816864.shtml**](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/816864.shtml)

ESAR

**Across EASR**

**Extremist group gains foothold among Kenyans**

Outside of Somalia itself, Kenya sends more fighters to the al-Shabaab than does any other country, analysts say. Young Kenyan men have ridden buses to the border in large numbers for years, local Muslim leaders say, drawn by payments of up to $1,000 to cross into Somalia and fight for the group. But ever since the Kenyan military stormed into southern Somalia two years ago, many Kenyan fighters have been coming back home, local leaders and experts say, creating a larger, increasingly sophisticated network of trained jihadists in a country where people from around the globe gather in crowded, lightly protected public places.

**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/10/world/africa/extremist-group-gains-foothold-among-kenyans.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/10/world/africa/extremist-group-gains-foothold-among-kenyans.html)

**Kenya**

**Fury as men walk free after brutal schoolgirl rape**

Kenyans are demanding justice after three men accused of brutally gang raping a school girl and dumping her body in a pit latrine were ordered to cut grass as punishment. The ferocious attack and lack of action towards those who carried it out has sparked outrage and deep anger. The 16-year old girl was reportedly attacked, beaten and then raped by six men as she returned from her grandfather's funeral in western Kenya in June, before the gang dumped her, bleeding and unconscious, in a deep sewage ditch.

**AFP -** [**http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/World/Fury-in-Kenya-as-men-walk-free-after-brutal-schoolgirl-rape/-/688340/2026852/-/59ur4i/-/index.html**](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/World/Fury-in-Kenya-as-men-walk-free-after-brutal-schoolgirl-rape/-/688340/2026852/-/59ur4i/-/index.html)

LAC

**Colombia**

**Rebels say no plans to leave peace talks**

Colombian FARC rebels holding peace negotiations in Havana on Wednesday said they were committed to moving forward in the talks, but shrugged off their president's call to pick up the pace. "As far as the FARC is concerned, we are locked at the negotiating table until we sign an agreement to end the conflict," said rebel negotiator Andres Paris. He said that if the government should want to seek a pause ahead of Colombian legislative and presidential elections next year, the Marxist rebels would agree. But Paris said no such request had been made. On Tuesday Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos urged FARC rebels to move faster in the negotiations under way in Cuba for almost a year now.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131009/colombian-rebels-say-no-plans-leave-peace-talks**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131009/colombian-rebels-say-no-plans-leave-peace-talks)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Israeli settlers rampage through village**

Palestinian residents of as West Bank village say masked Jewish settlers torched three cars and defaced a mosque during an overnight attack. Nizam Ali, a resident of Burka, says he woke up around 1 am Thursday and saw five masked settlers setting his car on fire. He says one of the settlers had a rifle. The settlers also spray painted the phrase, "Redemption of Zion, I love Tomer Hazan" on the wall of the village mosque. Hazan was an Israeli soldier recently abducted and killed by a Palestinian acquaintance. Extremist settlers in the West Bank frequently rampage through Palestinian villages. Israeli authorities have had little success catching the perpetrators. Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld says the attack is being investigated as a "criminal act with nationalistic motives."

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/settler-rampage-forces-palestinian-school-lockdown-20517948**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/settler-rampage-forces-palestinian-school-lockdown-20517948)

**Algeria**

**Flash floods kill seven**

Flash floods killed seven people in Algeria on Wednesday, five of them in a normally arid region bordering the Sahara, emergency services said. Two rivers burst their banks in Djelfa, 330km, south of Algiers, on the escarpment where the High Plateaus of the centre give way to the deserts of the south. Five bodies were recovered after two vehicles were swept away, it quoted emergency services as saying. The other two deaths came in an area of Msila province 230km southeast of the capital, where the Soubella river burst its banks. Several dozen families were forced to flee homes along the river and take refuge in a local school.

**AFP -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_10\_10/Flash-floods-kill-seven-in-Algeria-6606/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_10_10/Flash-floods-kill-seven-in-Algeria-6606/)

**Egypt**

**Suicide bombing kills 3 troops, 1 policeman**

A suicide bomber drove his explosives-laden car on Thursday into a checkpoint outside a coastal city in Egypt's volatile Sinai Peninsula and detonated it, killing three soldiers and a policeman, according to security officials. The attack outside el-Arish also wounded five people, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The bomber, they said, slowly approached the checkpoint, waited for soldiers and policemen to start searching the car before he blew himself and the vehicle up.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/trial-date-morsi-stokes-egypt-political-drama-20518011**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/trial-date-morsi-stokes-egypt-political-drama-20518011)

**Iraq**

**19 killed, 27 wounded in violent attacks across country**

At least 19 people were killed and 27 others wounded in separate violent attacks across Iraq on Wednesday, police and interior ministry officials said. Unidentified gunmen attacked a checkpoint of Iraqi police in southern Baiji, some 200km north of Baghdad, killing four policemen and wounding six others, and the militants fled the scene after the attack, a police source said. A suicide bomber used a car bomb to attack a convoy of Iraqi parliament speaker Osama al-Nujaifi in Ain al-Jahish area south of Mosul, 400km north of Baghdad, followed by clashes between gunmen and the speaker's bodyguards, the police source said. Two of the bodyguards were killed and eight others wounded, the source said, adding that al-Nujaifi was not in the convoy when the attack took place.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/10/c\_125503964.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/10/c_125503964.htm)

**Libya**

**PM briefly held by gunmen angry at US Qaeda capture**

Libya's PM was seized and held for several hours on Thursday by former rebel militiamen angry at the weekend capture by US special forces of a Libyan al Qaeda suspect in Tripoli. Ali Zeidan was freed unharmed but the incident underlined the anarchy prevailing in country, two years after the Western-backed overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. The PM was expected to give an account shortly of his six hours or so in captivity. Gunmen associated with the fragmented Libyan security apparatus had hauled him at dawn from the luxury hotel where he lives under heavy guard.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/uk-libya-kidnap-idUKBRE99909J20131010**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/uk-libya-kidnap-idUKBRE99909J20131010)

**UN says abduction of PM a "wake-up call"**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said the abduction of Libyan PM Ali Zeidan was a "wake-up call" for the need to restore political stability and rule of law in Libya. "This very unfortunate abduction of the prime minister is a clear wake-up call," he said on the sidelines of a regional summit in Brunei. "We still see continuing violence and political instability," he added. "The United Nations have been working very closely with Libyan authorities and neighbouring countries to help them to first of all establish their political stability and establish rule of law." "It would be very important for the Libyan government, their leadership, to have inclusive dialogue and reconciliation so that all the people can really join this political transition," he added.

**DPA -** [**http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/extra-un-says-abduction-of-libyan-prime-minister-a-wake-up-call\_300461.html**](http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/extra-un-says-abduction-of-libyan-prime-minister-a-wake-up-call_300461.html)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Court orders investigation into child-bride case**

A Saudi court has ordered an investigation into the marriage of a 12-year-old girl in the south of the conservative kingdom, a local news website reported. The Saudi justice ministry drafted a bill earlier this year that sets 16 years as the minimum age of marriage for girls but allows for exceptions. A ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment but human rights activists have previously said such rules have previously been announced and not subsequently followed. Al-Sabq website reported on Tuesday that a school principal in Samita district in the southeast of the country near the Yemeni border noticed that the fourth-grade girl had not been feeling well, and sent her to a local hospital after finding out she had been married.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131009174426-rt1ko/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131009174426-rt1ko/?source=hptop)

**2 die of MERS in Saudi capital ahead of annual hajj**

Two Saudis have died in Riyadh after they contracted the MERS virus, health authorities announced on Thursday, as the kingdom prepares to host some two million Muslim pilgrims for the annual hajj. The two men, aged 78 and 55, had also suffered from other chronic diseases, the ministry said on its website. It did not specify when the deaths occurred. Meanwhile, authorities recorded two more infections bringing to 119, the number of people infected in the kingdom since the disease first appeared in Saudi Arabia in September 2012, the ministry said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/2-die-mers-saudi-capital-ahead-annual-hajj-20131010**](http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/2-die-mers-saudi-capital-ahead-annual-hajj-20131010)

**Syria**

**Hezbollah, Iraqi militia capture Damascus suburb**

Iraqi and Lebanese Shi'ite militia backed by Syrian army firepower overran a southern suburb of Damascus on Wednesday, opposition activists said, in a blow to Sunni Muslim rebels trying to hold onto strategic outskirts of the capital. At least 20 rebels were killed when Hezbollah guerrillas and Iraqi militiamen captured the town of Sheikh Omar under cover of Syrian army artillery and tank fire and aerial bombardment, the activists said, with tens of Shi'ite fighters killed or wounded. Sheikh Omar sits between two highways leading south of Damascus that are crucial to supplying President Bashar al-Assad's forces in the provinces of Deraa and Sweida on the border with Jordan.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131009175551-q0nwj/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131009175551-q0nwj/?source=hptop)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Country risks becoming "narco-state" - UN official**

Afghanistan risks becoming a "full-fledged narco-state" without international support to help create alternative jobs for its people, a senior UN official said on Wednesday. Yury Fedotov, head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), painted a bleak picture of Afghanistan's narcotics problem before next year's withdrawal of NATO-led combat forces. He said the presence of those forces generates roughly one third of investment and jobs in Afghanistan, and that the gap when they are gone should be filled to prevent matters getting worse. A regular UNODC survey due later this month will show cultivation as well as production of opium increasing compared with 2012, Fedotov said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131009143806-xc9o9/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131009143806-xc9o9/?source=hptop)

**India**

**Southeast braces as cyclone Phailin approaches**

India began stocking shelters with rations, put disaster response teams on standby, and cancelled government employees' holidays as a cyclone hurtled towards its southeastern coast on Thursday. Packing wind speeds of up to 185 kph (115 mph), cyclone Phailin is moving in from the Bay of Bengal and is expected to develop into a severe cyclone before hitting the coast of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states on the night of 12 October. The neighbouring state of West Bengal, and the Andaman and Nicobar islands, are also expected to experience heavy rains, gale force winds and storm surges. Phailin is now classified as a Category 1 cyclonic storm on a scale that rises to Category 5. It is predicted to stiffen to Category 3 before reaching land between Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Paradeep in Odisha.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131010073333-8ivor/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131010073333-8ivor/?source=hptop)

**Nepal**

**Candidate in elections dies after being shot**

An official says a Muslim candidate in upcoming elections for Nepal's Constituent Assembly has died nearly a week after being shot in his home district. Mahamud Alam, a leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), was attacked by assailants last Friday, a day after he filed his candidacy in Bara district, about 250km south of Katmandu. Party spokesman Pradeep Gyawali said Alam succumbed to bullet injuries at a hospital on Thursday. Police are investigating the motive for the attack. The interim government has announced that the elections will be held 19 November.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/candidate-nepal-elections-dies-shot-20527018**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/candidate-nepal-elections-dies-shot-20527018)

**Pakistan**

**2 killed, 6 injured as bomb hits Lahore**

At least two people were killed and six others injured on Thursday as a bomb blast hit downtown area of Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, local media reported. The strong blast ripped through a restaurant in the Old Anarkali market. Deputy Inspector General of Police Rai Tahir said that the bomb was planted besides one of the pillars of the building and detonated with a time device.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/10/c\_132786339.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/10/c_132786339.htm)

**Foreign aid agencies seek access to quake victims**

Pakistan must allow international aid agencies to work in its disaster-hit southwestern region where survivors of twin earthquakes two weeks ago still need help, relief groups said on Wednesday. According to official figures, 376 people died and 200,000 had their lives disrupted when a 7.7 magnitude quake struck Baluchistan province on 24 September and a similar magnitude earthquake struck four days later. A senior official has put the death toll at 515. Aid workers say several foreign agencies have been denied permission to work in the Awaran district, the epicentre of the disaster, where tens of thousands of people need aid.

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/10/09/pakistan-earthquake-aid-idINDEE9980EU20131009**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/10/09/pakistan-earthquake-aid-idINDEE9980EU20131009)

**Vaccinating children against polio can be a deadly job - UNICEF mention**

Anti-polio campaigns have been targeted by militants ever since US intelligence used a fake vaccination program to help in its hunt for al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2011. The CIA used a fake vaccination program to collect DNA samples from residents of bin Laden's compound to verify his presence there. That was not a polio campaign, but the fallout still lingers. Since July 2012, at least 22 polio workers have been killed. On Monday alone, two people were killed and 13 others were wounded in a bombing that targeted polio workers in northwest Pakistan, police said.  
**CNN -** [**http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/09/world/asia/pakistan-polio-workers/index.html**](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/09/world/asia/pakistan-polio-workers/index.html)

**Bomb kills at least 5 in southwest**

Police say a bomb exploded has outside a police station in a crowded market in southwest Pakistan, killing at least five people. Police official Mohammed Mohsin says the blast on Thursday in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, also wounded at least 20 people. The bomb also damaged several shops and vehicles parked in the market. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

**AP -** [**http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/10/10/3251550/bomb-at-market-in-pakistani-city.html**](http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/10/10/3251550/bomb-at-market-in-pakistani-city.html)

**Teenager, shot by Taliban, wins EU human rights prize**

Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai, shot in the head by the Taliban for campaigning for education for girls, won the EU’s annual human rights award on Thursday. The 16-year-old was attacked last year while on a school bus in northwestern Pakistan, but recovered after medical treatment in Britain. She is also a favorite among experts and betting agencies to be named the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. Yousafzai started her campaigning by writing blogs in 2009 in which she described how the militant Islamist Taliban prevented girls like her from going to school.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-eu-prize-malala-idUSBRE99908X20131010**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-eu-prize-malala-idUSBRE99908X20131010)

WCAR

**CAR**

**Leader sacks another ally**

The rebel leader-turned-president in CAR has fired his information minister, the latest in a series of fallouts with the allies who brought him to power. The announcement of Christophe Gazam Betty's departure was carried Wednesday on national radio. No reason was given for his termination and no replacement was named. The move, though, comes after a number of other terminations in Michel Djotodia's government at a time he is seeking to distance himself from the very rebels who brought him to power in March. Already Djotodia has removed Cabinet ministers Nouredine Adam and Mohamed Moussa Dhaffane, both former prominent rebel leaders.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/african-republic-leader-sacks-ally-20515848**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/african-republic-leader-sacks-ally-20515848)

**UN to tackle collapsing country**

The UNSC is set to vote on a resolution Thursday aimed at helping end near-anarchy in the violence-wracked CAR, which it says is threatening stability in the volatile region and beyond. The draft resolution, which diplomats expect to be approved unanimously, strongly backs a new AU peacekeeping force in the country and demands swift implementation of a political transition leading to free and fair elections in less than 18 months. It expresses the council's readiness to consider "appropriate measures" against those who undermine peace, stability and security, impede the political transition and fuel violence.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/tackle-collapsing-central-african-republic-20526009**](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/tackle-collapsing-central-african-republic-20526009)

**Guinea**

**International monitors cite 'irregularities' in vote**

Diplomats and UN representatives observing Guinea's first parliamentary elections in over a decade raised "irregularities" on Tuesday, amid calls from the opposition for the 28 September vote to be annulled over "fraud."

"Breaches and irregularities were observed in a certain number of constituencies, preventing a significant number of votes from being taken into account, and could therefore put into question the sincerity of certain results," the diplomats said in a joint statement, pointing to issues in eight out of 38 constituencies. The country's electoral commission (CENI) should "identify these cases and refer to them in the document transmitting provisional results to the Supreme Court", they added. That should be filed as soon as possible to the court after provisional results are published, and within the deadline for any appeals, said the observers who include UN envoy Said Djinnit, US and French ambassadors, as well as representatives from the WU and west African bloc ECOWAS.

**AFP -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131009-international-observers-monitors-cite-irregularities-guinea-parliamentary-vote**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131009-international-observers-monitors-cite-irregularities-guinea-parliamentary-vote)

**Liberia**

**Police arrest anti-government protesters**

Liberian police officials say they have arrested an undisclosed number of anti-government protesters who planned a demonstration again President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf when she returned from an overseas trip. Police Director Chris Massaquoi mentioned the arrests while appearing on a Wednesday morning radio program, saying the suspects had been caught driving around Monrovia the day before, falsely announcing that Sirleaf had resigned. He did not say how many were arrested, and police spokesman Sam Collins said the number was "not available to me."

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/liberian-police-arrest-anti-government-protesters-20517456**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/liberian-police-arrest-anti-government-protesters-20517456)

**Mauritania**

**Slaves, fake refugees and lentils: the Mbera camp in Mauritania**

Fake refugees, unsuitable food rations and a tradition of slavery that lives on in all but name are among the problems facing aid workers running a Malian refugee camp in southeastern Mauritania, where UNHCR has come in for sharp criticism. Some 75,000 refugees from north Mali have sought safety and support in the Mbera camp, near the small town of Bassikounou, since fleeing their homes in March 2012 after Tuareg and Islamist separatists seized control of their home region. The unusually large number of local Mauritanians claiming to be refugees in the Mbera camp has caused alarm among donors who are hesitant about spending extra money at a time of economic crisis when there are other humanitarian priorities, like Syria. Around one fifth of the refugees registered in Mbera camp are actually locals, according to a recent joint assessment mission conducted by the UNHCR and WFP. ECHO has decided to withdraw funding from UNHCR until the genuine refugees are identified.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131009133413-snelw/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131009133413-snelw/)

**Nigeria**

**Army raids terror bomb factory near Kano**

Nigeria's military raided a bomb factory Wednesday where Islamic extremists were plotting attacks on the northern city of Kano as Muslims prepare to celebrate a major religious holiday next week, an army general said. At the same time the leader of the Boko Haram terrorist network threatened more assaults "soon" using heavy weapons he said were seized in battles against the Nigerian military. A video in which Abubakar Shekau delivers his message ends with a display of rocket-propelled grenades, anti-aircraft guns and piles of AK-47 rifles and ammunition. Shekau warned Nigerians to "prepare for a big war" to overturn democracy and install an Islamic state in Nigeria.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/military-raid-terrorist-bomb-factory-kano-20516983**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/military-raid-terrorist-bomb-factory-kano-20516983)

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