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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Haiti, Philippines, Pakistan most weather-affected in 2012 – index**

Haiti, the Philippines and Pakistan were the countries hit hardest by extreme weather in 2012, according to a [global climate risk index](http://germanwatch.org/en/7673) released on Tuesday. Haiti’s losses came from Hurricane Sandy, which swept across the island before striking the US in October 2012, while the Philippines struggled with Typhoon Bopha in December. Pakistan, in turn, was hit by a third straight year of monsoon-related flooding. Developing nations dominate the index, produced by Germanwatch, a research and advocacy group that works on sustainable development and global equity issues. But wealthy nations are also edging up the rankings.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112121049-846iw/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112121049-846iw/?source=hpbreaking)

**China's meagre aid to the Philippines could dent its image**

China may have wasted the chance to build goodwill in Southeast Asia with its relatively paltry donation to the Philippines in the wake of a devastating typhoon, especially with the United States sending an aircraft carrier and Japan ramping up aid. The world's second-largest economy is a growing investor in Southeast Asia, where it is vying with the US and Japan for influence. But China's assertiveness in pressing its claim to the disputed South China Sea has strained ties with several regional countries, most notably the Philippines.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112120420-tw89f/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112120420-tw89f/?source=hpbreaking)

**UN**

**UN launches $301m Philippines aid appeal**

The UN has launched an appeal for $301m (£190m) to help relief efforts in typhoon-hit areas of the Philippines. At least 10,000 people are feared to have been killed by Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the central Philippines on Friday. The UN says more than 11 million people are believed to have been affected by the storm and some 673,000 displaced. Several countries have deployed ships to help the relief effort, but bad weather is hampering aid distribution. Valerie Amos, the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief, has arrived in Manila to head the aid operation. She told the BBC that people in the affected regions were "absolutely desperate". "They need food, they need water, they need shelter.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24910918**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24910918)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS**

**Russia demands Polish apology over embassy violence**

Russia demanded an apology from Poland on Tuesday after far-right rioters threw firecrackers at the Russian embassy in Warsaw, reviving tension between countries that have long been at odds.

The Polish ambassador in Moscow was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry and told Russia wanted an official apology and compensation for damage done to the embassy in Monday's violence, which followed a nationalist march. Russia also asked Poland to take steps to punish those responsible, protect Russian diplomatic buildings and "prevent a repeat of such provocations in the future", the ministry said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112121851-4zo3s/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112121851-4zo3s/?source=hpbreaking)

EAPR

**Cambodia**

**Woman shot dead in Cambodia protest clash**

A woman was shot dead and several people injured in clashes between protesting garment workers and riot police in the Cambodian capital Tuesday, a rights group and family members said. The clashes erupted as hundreds of employees from a factory supplying global brands marched towards Prime Minister Hun Sen's home in the heart of Phnom Penh to demand better working conditions. "This is a cruel crackdown by the authorities," said Am Sam Ath from local rights group Licadho, at a city hospital where the injured were taken. The activist told AFP that five others suffered gunshot wounds during the unrest. Authorities earlier said that security forces had used water cannon as demonstrators threw rocks and set a police vehicle alight. They have not confirmed witness reports of a more forceful response including rubber bullets and tear gas. The dead woman was named as 49-year-old Eng Sokhom by family members.  
**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/woman-shot-dead-cambodia-protest-clash-activists-070622395.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/woman-shot-dead-cambodia-protest-clash-activists-070622395.html)

**Philippines**

**Typhoon kills 10,000 in Tacloban: UN**

The UN warned on Monday of a quickly mounting death toll from the super typhoon in the Philippines, with 10,000 people feared killed in the worst-hit city of Tacloban alone. One top humanitarian official said the UN was "expecting the worst" on the final body count, and also cited the desperate need for clean drinking water and food for survivors of the disaster. John Ging, UN humanitarian operations director, said 660,000 people had fled their homes because of typhoon Haiyan and that the UN will appeal for significant international aid for victims on Tuesday. "The scale of devastation is massive and therefore it will require the mobilization of a massive response," Ging said, praising the Philippines government response to the disaster as "very impressive" so far.

**AFP** - [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/typhoon-kills-10-000-in/883182.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/typhoon-kills-10-000-in/883182.html)

**Thailand**

**Anti-Thaksin protesters set new targets after amnesty bill defeat**

Thailand's senate has defeated an amnesty bill that could have led to the return from exile of deposed former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, but opponents of the bill vowed to continue their protests against the government. The main opposition Democrat Party called for civil disobedience and a three-day nationwide strike beginning on Wednesday in what is seen as a campaign to bring down the government led by Thaksin's sister, prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Critics say the amnesty bill was an attempt by the government to whitewash Thaksin's alleged crimes and pave the way for his return. Thaksin, a highly divisive figure, fled the country in 2008 to escape a two-year jail term on a corruption charge. The senate voted 141-0 late on Monday to reject the bill after the ruling party withdrew its support. Although the more-powerful lower house can legally pass legislation without senate approval after a 180-day wait, Yingluck and the government coalition parties have pledged that the bill will not be revived.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/12/thailand-anti-thaksin-protesters-amnesty-bill-defeat**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/12/thailand-anti-thaksin-protesters-amnesty-bill-defeat)

ESAR

**Across ESAR**

**Somali refugee returns from Kenya must be voluntary: UN**

Somali refugees in Kenya must only return home voluntarily, the UN said Monday, after signing a deal easing fears of possible forced returns of over half a million refugees. The joint deal - inked on Sunday by Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR - comes amid refugee fear of retaliatory attacks following a deadly attack by Somalia's Shebab extremists on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall in September. After the attack, several Kenyan officials pointed the finger at the northeastern camp of Dadaab - the world's largest refugee complex hosting over 400,000 people, mainly Somalis fleeing war - as being a "training ground" for extremists. Rights groups have accused Kenyan police in the past of a brutal campaign against Somali refugees, following a string of grenade attacks or shootings inside Kenya blamed on supporters or members of the Shebab.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/somali-refugee-returns-kenya-must-voluntary-un-101510715.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/somali-refugee-returns-kenya-must-voluntary-un-101510715.html)

**Ethiopia**

**Ethiopia warns of attacks by Somalia's Shebab insurgents**

Ethiopia has warned of an increased threat from Somalia's Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab, saying the country should expect more attacks, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. The announcement comes after two Somali nationals were killed last month when a bomb they were making exploded in Addis Ababa. Officials said they planned to target crowds gathered for a World Cup qualifying match. "More activities of this nature are expected to happen in Ethiopia, and therefore the need for raising security levels is very, very important," Foreign Ministry spokesman Dina Mufti told reporters. Ethiopian troops entered Somalia in November 2011 to support African Union and Somali forces to fight Shebab extremists. The Islamists have vowed to exact revenge on countries with soldiers in Somalia. In Kenya, which also invaded Somalia in 2011, Shebab gunmen massacred at least 67 people in their September attack on Nairobi's Westgate mall.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iZnjdHIh0cU0dv2g8LDvgbPePTWA?docId=ec9a6507-544b-49a3-82d0-b91e0edfc0d1**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iZnjdHIh0cU0dv2g8LDvgbPePTWA?docId=ec9a6507-544b-49a3-82d0-b91e0edfc0d1)

**Somalia**

**Storm kills at least 100 in Puntland**

At least 100 people were killed when a tropical cyclone hit Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region at the weekend, the government said on Monday, declaring a state of emergency and appealing for international aid. The government said hundreds of people were missing after the storm made landfall on Saturday. "Houses and livestock were swept into the ocean by the floods," President Abdirahman Mohamud Farole told reporters in the capital Garowe. "We urge UN aid agencies to assist the victims. As Puntland, we have established a committee to investigate the loss and damage. Electricity, communication and fishing boats were all destroyed." The government said preliminary information showed more than 100,000 livestock were lost and fishing boats swept away, endangering the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/11/us-somalia-storm-puntland-idUSBRE9AA0K420131111**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/11/us-somalia-storm-puntland-idUSBRE9AA0K420131111)

LAC

**Haïti**

**Orphanage workers attacked, 1 dead**

A Haitian man was killed and an Irish woman received minor injuries when they were beaten with a hammer during a break-in at the orphanage where they worked, police said Monday. Police inspector Gilbert Conseillant said that three men demanded money when they showed up Thursday night at the Kay Christine orphanage in a rural village in the mountains above the capital of Port-au-Prince. Gena Heraty of Ireland runs the special needs program for the orphanage, home to about 400 children.

**AP -** [**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/11/11/haiti-orphanage-workers-attacked/3500597/**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/11/11/haiti-orphanage-workers-attacked/3500597/)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Official indicates curfew to end Wednesday**

Egypt's interior minister has indicated that a curfew and state of emergency will expire on Wednesday as scheduled. Gen. Mohammed Ibrahim told the official news agency Monday that he will boost security forces after the curfew is lifted "to tighten control and instill a feeling of confidence and security in citizens." Egypt imposed a curfew based on a state of emergency that was passed on 14 August, when security forces violently dispersed two Cairo protest camps of supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi. Hundreds of people were killed and the days of unrest that followed left more than 1,000 dead. It would require a public referendum to extend the state of emergency. The curfew has been 7 p.m. on Friday and 1 a.m. on all other days.

**AP** - [**http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-official-indicates-curfew-end-wednesday-165724578.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/egypt-official-indicates-curfew-end-wednesday-165724578.html)

**Police fire tear gas at pro-Mursi students in Nile Delta**

Egyptian police fired tear gas on Tuesday at student supporters of ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi who were protesting at the university in the Nile Delta town of Mansoura, witnesses said. Egypt has seen a wave of protests and violence since the army overthrew Mursi last July in reaction to mass protests against his rule. Hundreds have been killed, mostly from Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist supporters as well as about 100 security officers.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112130253-58u5x/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112130253-58u5x/?source=hpbreaking)

**POLL-Egypt is worst Arab state for women, Comoros best**

Sexual harassment, high rates of female genital cutting and a surge in violence and Islamist feeling after the Arab Spring uprisings have made Egypt the worst country in the Arab world to be a woman, a poll of gender experts showed on Tuesday. Discriminatory laws and a spike in trafficking also contributed to Egypt’s place at the bottom of a ranking of 22 Arab states, the Thomson Reuters Foundation survey found. Despite hopes that women would be one of the prime beneficiaries of the Arab Spring, they have instead been some of the biggest losers, as the revolts have brought conflict, instability, displacement and a rise in Islamist groups in many parts of the region, experts said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131108170910-qacvu/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131108170910-qacvu/?source=hpagehead)

**Iran**

**Iranian foreign minister blames West for snag in nuclear talks**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif rejected US Secretary of State John Kerry's pinning of blame on Iran for the lack of a deal on its nuclear programme last week, saying splits between Western powers prevented a breakthrough. Responding to remarks by Kerry in Abu Dhabi on Monday, Zarif said that singling out Iran only served to undermine confidence in the Geneva negotiations, which will resume on Nov. 20. The US, EU powers and Iran worked hard for months on a proposal to help end the 10-year standoff over Iran's nuclear activity, diplomats said. Hopes for a deal rose so high that foreign ministers of six world powers travelled to Geneva to put their weight behind the talks.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112121921-w3nja/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112121921-w3nja/?source=hpbreaking)

**Lebanon**

**Lebanese pro-Hezbollah cleric killed in drive-by shooting**

Gunmen on a motorcycle shot and killed a Lebanese Sunni Muslim cleric who supported the Shiite militant Hezbollah group in the northern city of Tripoli on Tuesday, security sources said. Saadeddine Ghiyyeh, an official in the Islamic Action Front, was shot multiple times in his car as he was leaving home. A photo on the National News Agency's website appeared to show Ghiyyeh lying face down in his car with a head wound. Tripoli has seen on-off clashes between Sunni Muslim militants who support a revolt against President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite sect, which is an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131112101035-3d5u2/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131112101035-3d5u2/?source=hpbreaking)

**Saudi Arabia**

**Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) update**

WHO has been informed of two additional laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Saudi Arabia. The first patient is a 72-year-old man from Riyadh with underlying medical conditions. He became ill in October, and has been hospitalised since. The second patient is a 43-year-old man from Jeddah. He became ill in October 2013 and has been hospitalised since 3 November. Globally, from September 2012 to date, WHO has been informed of a total of 153 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS- CoV, including 64 deaths.

**WHO** - [**http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\_11\_11\_coronavirus/en/index.html**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_11_11_coronavirus/en/index.html)

**Sudan**

**Grave concern at Darfur tribal unrest: UNAMID**

The international peacekeeping mission in Sudan's Darfur is "gravely concerned" by tribal fighting in the region, a spokesman said on Monday, as efforts began to halt the latest clashes. Sources in the Taisha and Salamat Arab tribes told AFP late Sunday that tribal militias used rockets, artillery and heavy machine-guns in battle across a wide swathe of southwest Darfur. "UNAMID is gravely concerned about the escalation of inter-tribal fighting," Ashraf Eissa of the AU-UN Mission in Darfur said, after the mission received reports of violence among Misseriya, Taisha and Salamat tribes in parts of Central Darfur state in recent days. "The number of casualties has not been confirmed," Eissa said. Worsening tribal militia violence has already killed hundreds in Darfur this year. The Salamat have been fighting off-and-on with the Misseriya, a Taisha ally, in southwest Darfur since April.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hbIMzdsLvbOXzCO-zyf\_SJUcS1FA?docId=1c942a0c-8e4f-4e48-9b49-5cc2d3461a67&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hbIMzdsLvbOXzCO-zyf_SJUcS1FA?docId=1c942a0c-8e4f-4e48-9b49-5cc2d3461a67&hl=en)

**Sudan government, rebels block vaccination drive**

The Sudan government and a key rebel group are refusing to let UN workers vaccinate 160,000 children against polio in conflict-stricken states despite agreeing to a ceasefire, the UN said Monday. UN humanitarian operations director John Ging said he had appealed to the UN SC for pressure to end what he called a "filibuster" by the Sudan government and opposition Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) on humanitarian access. Polio has reappeared in East Africa, and the United Nations is worried that the conflict in Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states could help it spread again. The separatist rebels have been battling government forces in the two states since mid-2011. The UN brokered a ceasefire between the government forces and SPLM-N for November 5-

November 12, but the two sides would still not let aid workers in, Ging told reporters, expressing frustration at obstacles to getting humanitarian access.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/sudan-government-rebels-block-vaccination-drive-223154227.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/sudan-government-rebels-block-vaccination-drive-223154227.html)

**Syria**

**Syrian troops, rebels clash south of Damascus**

Activists say clashes have flared up between Syrian troops and rebels on the southern outskirts of Damascus as part of a weeks-long government push to advance on opposition-held areas. The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says fighting is underway around the rebel-held Hejeira suburb on Tuesday.

**AP -** [**http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4452566,00.html**](http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4452566,00.html)

**Mortar fire kills five children at Damascus school: TV**

Nine children were killed and 27 people wounded when mortar rounds hit a school and a school bus in the Syrian capital Damascus on Monday, state television reported. "The toll in the terrorist targeting of the St. John of Damascus school with mortar rounds has risen to five dead, all of them children, and 27 injured," a news alert on Syrian state television said. Another four students were killed when a mortar hit the vehicle they were in, in the central Bab Sharqi district of the capital, state news agency SANA said, adding that the driver was also killed. Six others inside the bus, including four more students, were wounded in the "terrorist attack," SANA said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131111/mortar-fire-kills-five-children-at-damascus-school**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131111/mortar-fire-kills-five-children-at-damascus-school)

**Palestinian refugee camp in Syria to be emptied of arms**

A Palestinian official announced Monday that "practical steps" would be taken within hours to empty militants and weapons from the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Syria. The steps also include helping the return of the Yarmouk camp's residents, who moved into Lebanon and other parts of Syria in the past two years, said Zakaria al-Agha, an executive committee member of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Leading a Palestinian delegation, Al-Agha arrived in Syria on Saturday with the goal of getting Palestinian refugee camps out of the Syrian conflict. It's the fourth such visit by the delegation. When talking about the issue of missing and detained Palestinians, al-Agha said in a statement that the Syrian officials promised to start releasing those refugees who are proved not to be involved in the Syrian crisis. **Xinhua -** [**http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article\_xinhua.aspx?id=179565**](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=179565)

**Tunisia**

**Tunisian sets self ablaze outside government building**

A 32-year-old man from a poor neighborhood of the Tunisian capital set himself on fire outside a government building on Monday, the emergency services told AFP. Suffering third-degree burns to his face, chest and hands, the man was rushed to a specialist medical clinic in the Ben Arous suburb of Tunis for treatment, said emergency services representative Mongi el-Kadhi. Originally from the impoverished Intilakha district, the young man was a victim of deprived social circumstances and suffered psychological problems, and had tried to kill himself late last month by leaping from an electricity pylon, Kadhi said. The number of people committing suicide or trying to take their own lives has multiplied since a young Tunisian street vendor set himself on fire on December 17 20c10, in a drastic act of protest against police harassment.

**AFP -** [**http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/11/Tunisian-sets-self-ablaze-outside-government-building-.html**](http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/11/Tunisian-sets-self-ablaze-outside-government-building-.html)

**One killed after Tunisia police, Islamist militants clash**

Tunisian police killed an Islamist militant and wounded two others on Tuesday, the Interior Ministry said, after clashes in a southern city close to the border with Libya, where authorities say Tunisian militants are being trained and armed. Tunisia's government has increased security operations after a suicide bomber blew himself up in the tourist resort of Sousse last month, the first such assault in more than a decade. "The security forces killed one terrorist, wounded two others and arrested the rest of the group after a confrontation with militants hiding in a house in Kebeli," said Mohamed Ali Aroui, a spokesman for the interior ministry. He later said eight people had been arrested and five cars seized, including one that he said was rigged up with a bomb. Two members of the security forces were wounded during the clashes which took place at dawn on Tuesday.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/12/us-tunisia-security-idUSBRE9AB0FZ20131112**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/12/us-tunisia-security-idUSBRE9AB0FZ20131112)

**Yemen**

**Yemen ceasefire deal violated a day after coming into force**

A government-brokered ceasefire intended to halt days of clashes in northern Yemen between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim fighters has been violated a day after it came into force, an official said on Monday. The fighting has killed at least 100 people since it began on October 30 when Shi'ite Houthis, who control much of Saada province on the border with Saudi Arabia, accused Salafi rivals in the town of Damaj of recruiting thousands of foreign fighters to prepare to attack them. The ceasefire came into effect on Sunday.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/11/uk-yemen-conflict-idUKBRE9AA0XJ20131111**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/11/uk-yemen-conflict-idUKBRE9AA0XJ20131111)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Militant disguised as woman killed in S. Afghanistan**

A Taliban militant wearing woman dress to deceive security personnel and conduct subversive activities was identified and shot dead in Taliban former stronghold the southern Kandahar province Sunday night, a local official said Monday. "A Taliban terrorist camouflaged himself as woman to deceive security personnel and carry out terrorist attack in Kandahar city was identified and gunned down last night," the official told Xinhua but declined to be identified, saying authorized officials would brief the media after investigation. Several hand grenades were also recovered from his possession, he added. Meanwhile, spokesman for Kandahar provincial administration Jawed Faisal confirmed the incident, adding investigation is underway. Kandahar the birthplace and former stronghold of Taliban has been the scene of Taliban-linked militancy over the past 10 years.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/11/c\_132878153.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/11/c_132878153.htm)

**India**

**Maoist rebels kill three in Eastern India**

At least three people were killed while four others were injured by Maoist rebels in India's eastern state of Bihar, police said Monday. Police said the incident happened in Gaya district of Bihar when the armed rebels identified seven individuals who were participating in a local cultural function and whisked them away to a nearby place and shot at them. Three people died on the spot while four others are injured and have been hospitalized, police said. The police added they suspect the real target was one of those killed, Sanjay Yadav, who had recently deserted the Maoist ranks. The Maoist rebels are active in 83 districts across nine states of India. Maoist rebels have been fighting in several Indian states for more than 40 years claiming they have been inspired by the Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung. **Kuwait NA -** [**http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2343516&language=en**](http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2343516&language=en)

WCAR

**DR Congo**

**DR Congo, M23 rebels fail to sign peace deal: Uganda govt**

The DRC and defeated M23 rebels failed to sign a hoped-for peace deal Monday, after Kinshasa demanded the agreement be revised, a Ugandan government official said. The "DRC delegation has aborted the signing of agreement with M23," Ugandan government spokesman Ofwono Opondo said, adding that the meeting was "adjourned sine die (without date)." The deal, expected to be signed Monday, was billed as a key step in efforts to end decades of war in the Great Lakes region. "For some strange reason the delegation of the DRC government did not enter the conference room, where the signing ceremony was expected to be," Opondo told reporters. "They belatedly called for revision of the terms of the agreement and we have adjourned consequently." However, DR Congo government spokesman Lambert Mende said the problem had come over the title of the deal to be signed.

**AFP** - [**http://news.yahoo.com/dr-congo-deal-very-important-step-peace-un-104740461.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/dr-congo-deal-very-important-step-peace-un-104740461.html)

**Mauritania**

**Mauritania Confronts Long Legacy of Slavery**

The protesters gathered in front of the low-slung police station, yelling “No to Slavery” and “Freedom.” They had come from across the country to demand the arrest of a family accused of holding a slave since childhood, but they elicited little more than dispassionate stares from the police officers sitting silently before them. The subprefect of the district went to take a nap in the afternoon heat. This year, the government gingerly acknowledged that an age-old scourge still haunted this nation, creating a new agency to wipe out the “vestiges of slavery” here. In a nation where the authorities have long denied the persistence of the problem, the willingness to emblazon the word “slavery” on a government agency - with a gleaming sign announcing it on a prominent street in the capital, no less - was a significant turning point and a step in the right direction, experts say.

**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/12/world/africa/mauritania-confronts-long-legacy-of-slavery.html?\_r=0**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/12/world/africa/mauritania-confronts-long-legacy-of-slavery.html?_r=0)

**Nigeria**

**Bill Gates visits Nigeria on polio eradication drive as polio cases drop 50%**

The world’s richest man and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, is currently in Abuja, Nigeria on a polio eradication drive. According to Nigeria’s Channels Television, Gates, whose foundation is at the vanguard of the ongoing campaign to end polio in Nigeria, met with members of Nigeria’s lower legislative house on Monday, where he commended the Nigerian government’s efforts in channeling more resources towards delivering oral polio vaccine (OPV) to vulnerable individuals in hot areas. He also expressed an overall satisfaction with the country’s efforts in eradicating polio. The goal of saving lives is a very realistic goal. Through these efforts I do think that children who do survive will be far healthier and able to take advantage of their education and contribute to the success of Nigeria,” he said.

**Forbes - <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2013/11/11/bill-gates-visits-nigeria-on-polio-eradication-drive-as-polio-cases-drop-50/>**

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

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