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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**African troops kill senior LRA commander, Uganda says**

US-backed African Union troops have killed a senior commander in the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan army spokesman said on Tuesday, part of efforts to track down the guerrilla group and send its leader to the Hague. US Special Forces have supported a Regional Task Force (RTF) of African troops since 2011 to try to track down LRA leader Joseph Kony, wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in a guerrilla war in Uganda and neighbouring states. The group, which launched its uprising two decades ago, has moved from Uganda to the border region of Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR), where analysts say it could rebuild in the political chaos sweeping through the country.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203102306-olf82/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203102306-olf82/?source=hpbreaking)

**Two thirds of women journalists harassed or abused – survey**

Almost two-thirds of women journalists taking part in a survey on harassment have experienced intimidation, threats or abuse in the course of their work, according to a study by two media organisations. Most incidents occurred in the workplace and were committed by male bosses, supervisors and colleagues, the poll by the [International News Safety Institute](http://www.newssafety.org/) (INSI) and the [International Women’s Media Foundation](http://www.iwmf.org/) (IWMF) revealed. More than half of women who were harassed indicated it had had a psychological impact, but most did not report it. The survey was released to coincide with the [U.N.’s Global Forum for Media and Gender](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/crosscutting-priorities/gender-and-media/global-forum-on-media-and-gender/homepage/) and remains live and open to contributions at [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/INSI-survey**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/INSI-survey).

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202180709-dm7gu/**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202180709-dm7gu/)

**Health disparities "could be eliminated in a generation" – study**

Health disparities between rich and poor nations could be banished in a generation by investment in research, vaccines and drugs to combat diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, global health experts said on Tuesday. In a report setting out a plan for a "grand convergence" in health, the experts said world leaders needed to press for a concerted increase in research and development (R&D) investment to develop new medicines, vaccines and health technologies. The report also recommended taking bold preventative steps in public health, such as increasing taxes on tobacco and other substances that can be harmful, like alcohol and sugar.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202234704-kxu54/?source=hpeditorial**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202234704-kxu54/?source=hpeditorial)

CEE/CIS

**Croatia**

**Croatia's same-sex marriage ban "dangerous", warn activists**

Catholic and conservative Croatia voted to ban same-sex marriage by a strong majority as activists warned that the poll was a step back for the EU's newest member. At a referendum on Sunday, almost 66 percent of voters said "yes" to amending the constitution limiting the definition of marriage as a “union between a woman and a man”. Currently, Croatia's constitution does not define marriage. "This is very dangerous move through which a democratic institution was actually abused for a collapse of democracy," prominent human rights activist Zoran Pusic told AFP.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/croatias-same-sex-marriage-ban-dangerous-warn-activists-0**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/croatias-same-sex-marriage-ban-dangerous-warn-activists-0)

**Turkey**

**Turkey court withdraws from protester killing trial**

A Turkish court on Monday withdrew from the highly-charged trial of a riot policeman accused of killing a protester during mass street demonstrations this year because of concerns over its impartiality. As riot police looked on, hundreds of people staged a rally outside the main courthouse in Ankara for the latest hearing in the case against an officer identified only as Ahmet S.Judge Affak Illez said the court had decided to refer the case to a higher tribunal because of concerns voiced by the victim's family about its impartiality and allegations of political pressure on the judiciary.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/turkey-court-withdraws-protester-killing-trial**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/turkey-court-withdraws-protester-killing-trial)

**Ukraine**

**PM urges lawmkers to avoid repeat of 'Orange Revolution'**

Ukrainian PM Mykola Azarov urged lawmakers not to repeat the 2004 Orange Revolution that overthrew the country's leadership in the face of mass protests. Speaking above boos in parliament during a debate over a no-confidence motion against his government, Azarov apologised for the use of police force against pro-EU protesters on one of Kiev's main squares. "We reach out our hand to you, push away the intriguers, the intriguers seeking power and who are trying to repeat the scenario of 2004," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203110310-bq4hb/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203110310-bq4hb/?source=hpbreaking)

**Police forcefully break up demonstration in Kiev**

Police in the Ukrainian capital broke up a large anti-government demonstration in the city center before dawn Saturday, swinging truncheons and injuring many. The riot police used tear gas when they dispersed the crowd of about 400 protesters who were demanding the resignation of President Viktor Yanukovych, demonstrators said. Some at Independence Square were seen bleeding from their heads and arms. The crowd was the remains of a Friday night rally that attracted some 10,000 people protesting Yanukovych’s decision not to sign a long-anticipated association agreement with the European Union.

**AP -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/police-forcefully-break-up-demonstration-in-kiev/2013/11/29/989f8b56-5975-11e3-bdbf-097ab2a3dc2b\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/police-forcefully-break-up-demonstration-in-kiev/2013/11/29/989f8b56-5975-11e3-bdbf-097ab2a3dc2b_story.html)

**France invites Ukrainian opposition's Klitschko to Paris**

France invited a senior figure in Ukraine's opposition, Vitaly Klitschko, to Paris on Tuesday to discuss a stand-off with the country's government that has brought hundreds of thousands onto the streets. Ukraine has plunged into crisis since President Viktor Yanukovich turned down a free-trade deal with the European Union under pressure from Russia, with pro-Europe demonstrators blockading the government's main building in Kiev. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told RFI radio he had sent a message to Klitschko, telling him he was prepared to meet him in Paris. He said he and President Francois Hollande had met Yanukovich at an EU summit last week in Vilnius.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203083328-n0n54/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203083328-n0n54/?source=search)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**US calls on China to rescind air defence zone to avoid Japan confrontation**

The US called on China to scrap its newly declared air defence identification zone on Monday, warning that Beijing risked a potentially dangerous confrontation with Japan and its allies at the start of a trip to the region by vice-president Joe Biden. The explicit request for China to “rescind” threats against unannounced aircraft passing over a chain of islands in the East China sea was made by the US just hours after Biden landed in Tokyo ahead of a six-day trip to Japan, China and South Korea.

**The Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/02/us-china-rescind-air-defence-zone-confrontation-japan**](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/02/us-china-rescind-air-defence-zone-confrontation-japan)

**DPR Korea**

**N Korean leader's powerbroker uncle 'sacked'**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, considered the power behind the throne, is believed to have been dismissed from his posts, a South Korean lawmaker has said, suggesting a huge upheaval in the country. Jang Song Thaek was likely sacked as vice chairman of the North's powerful National Defence Commission and as a department head of the ruling Workers' Party, the lawmaker, Jung Cheong-rae, said on Tuesday, citing a senior South Korean official with the National Intelligence Service (NIS).

**Al Jazeera –** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/12/n-korean-leader-powerbroker-uncle-sacked-201312393759196649.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2013/12/n-korean-leader-powerbroker-uncle-sacked-201312393759196649.html)

**Thailand**

**Thai government defuses confrontation, protest leader says not over**

Thailand's government ordered police on Tuesday to stop confronting protesters demanding the resignation of the prime minister, raising hopes that days of political violence may end, but the leader of the campaign said the fight would go on. Five people have been killed in clashes since the weekend and scores hurt. A heavy-handed government crackdown would have raised questions about the government's survival and the possibility of the military stepping in to restore order. Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban however said the campaign against what he called the "Thaksin regime" would continue.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203085530-wctmg/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203085530-wctmg/?source=hpbreaking)

ESAR

**Madagascar**

**Electoral body urges candidates to respect law**

Madagascar's Independent National Election Commission (CENIT) on Monday urged the presidential run-off and legislative election candidates to respect the electoral code. Jean Louis Robinson and Hery Rajaonarimampianina will compete for the top post of the Indian Ocean island country on Dec. 20, when 2,052 candidates will also take part in the legislative elections. The candidates and their supporters should respect the electoral code, CENIT President Atallah Beatrice said at a workshop held Monday in the capital Antananarivo in the presence of election officials from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mali.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-12/02/c\_125796125.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2013-12/02/c_125796125.htm)

**Zimbabwe**

**Inmates starving in cash-strapped jails –report**

At least 100 Zimbabwean prisoners have died of hunger and disease this year because the cash-strapped government can only afford one meal a day for inmates, a senior official was quoted as saying on Tuesday. Prison farms were not getting enough seed and fertiliser from the government to produce sufficient food to feed inmates, the NewsDay newspaper quoted Deputy Commissioner for Prisons Aggrey Machingauta as telling a parliamentary committee.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203101735-lsbhz/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203101735-lsbhz/?source=hpbreaking)

LAC

**Brazil**

**Brazil’s child sex trade thrives as World Cup looms -** **UNICEF mention**

Despite more than a decade of government vows to eradicate child prostitution from Fortaleza and other cities, the number of child sex workers in Brazil stood at around half a million in 2012, according to the National Forum for the Prevention of Child Labor, a non-governmental organization. That's a five-fold increase since 2001, when 100,000 children worked in the sex trade, according to UNICEF estimates. And with the World Cup approaching in June, officials and campaigners fear an explosion in child prostitution as sex workers migrate to big cities from interior states and pimps recruit more young flesh to meet increased demand from local and foreign soccer fans.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202170532-sxuze/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202170532-sxuze/?source=hpagehead)

**Honduras**

**Honduras authorities to review election fraud claim**

Honduras' electoral authority said on Monday it would review polling booth tallies from last month's presidential election after the second-place leftist candidate called the result fraudulent. The authority said it would go over the vote tallies of more than 16,000 polling booths, but it stopped short of announcing a full vote recount that runner-up Xiomara Castro, the wife of ousted former leader Manuel Zelaya, had called for. The ruling National Party's Juan Hernandez, who is head of Congress, won last week's election with 36.8 percent of the votes, according to the country's election tribunal. He has vowed to curb the drug violence that has given Honduras the world's highest murder rate.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/honduras-election-authority-review-disputed-election-tally-205000330.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/honduras-election-authority-review-disputed-election-tally-205000330.html)

**Venezuela**

**Power outage plunges most of Venezuela into darkness**

Venezuela's second massive power outage of the year plunged much of the nation into darkness on Monday night, prompting renewed talk of sabotage from President Nicolas Maduro's government and cries of incompetence from its foes. Power went off in Caracas and other cities around the country soon after 8 p.m. local time (0030 GMT), to the intense annoyance of residents and commuters. Monday's outage appeared similar to a massive Sept. 5 blackout that was one of the worst in the South American OPEC member's history. The blackouts, some due to planned power rationing and at other times to utility failures, have not affected the oil refineries, which are powered by separate generator plants.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203033112-iebg9/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203033112-iebg9/?source=hpbreaking)

MENA

**Across MENA  
MERS virus infects family in UAE, kills two in Qatar: WHO**

Another three people in the United Arab Emirates are sick with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus and two people infected with it in Qatar have died, the WHO said on Monday. The new cases in UAE were in a family in Abu Dhabi - a mother, father and an 8-year-old boy – WHO said in a disease outbreak update. The parents are both in a critical condition in hospital, the boy has mild respiratory symptoms. The WHO said the mother gave birth while in hospital, adding the baby, other close family contacts and healthcare staff were being monitored and tested for signs of the virus.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/02/us-mers-idUSBRE9B10U320131202**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/02/us-mers-idUSBRE9B10U320131202)

**Egypt**

**Egypt arrests prominent blogger in growing crackdown**

A prominent Egyptian blogger said on Tuesday he had been arrested, the latest political activist to be detained in a widening crackdown on dissent by the army-backed government. "I am now present in Basateen police station. I still don't know the accusation against me or the reason for my arrest," Ahmed Douma said on Twitter. Egyptian authorities have launched a crackdown on Islamists, killing hundreds and arresting thousands since the army ousted President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in July. The crackdown has now been extended to prominent political activists after liberals who backed Mursi's overthrow have become more vocal against the military.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203080826-ugmlw**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203080826-ugmlw)

**Iraq**

**Attack on Iraqi government complex kills nine**

Nine people were killed and 17 wounded in a suicide and mortar attack on a government compound in the northern Iraqi town of Tarmiya on Tuesday, police and medics said. One attacker wearing an explosive belt blew himself up at the structure, which held the mayor's office, the town's police station and other government organisations, officials told Reuters. Others shot at security guards and fired mortars at the compound, around 25 km north of the Iraqi capital. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the assault. But Sunni Muslim insurgents have regularly hit targets linked to the Shi'ite-led government and the army since the start of 2013, amid the country's worst spate of violence in five years.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2013/12/03/Attack-on-Iraqi-government-complex-kills-nine--police-medics.aspx**](http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2013/12/03/Attack-on-Iraqi-government-complex-kills-nine--police-medics.aspx)

**Lebanon**

**Lebanese army to manage security in Tripoli for six months**

The Lebanese government has instructed the army to [manage security](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gaRfCzGxqp2R5dNuLfd62ZTEoj2g?docId=3c1a407a-ba6c-4928-870d-18449a61ee6e) in Tripoli for the six months, as violence related to the Syrian conflict next door continues to kill residents and squelch business.

"It has been decided, for a period of six months, to task the army with all necessary measures to restore security," PM [Najib Mikati’s office said](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/02/us-lebanon-tripoli-army-idUSBRE9B10N320131202). [Violent clashes](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/02/us-lebanon-tripoli-army-idUSBRE9B10N320131202) have killed more than 100 people in Tripoli this year. Fighting between Alawites living in the district of Jabal Mohsen and Sunni Muslims in the neighboring district of Bab el-Tebbaneh caused [11 deaths](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gaRfCzGxqp2R5dNuLfd62ZTEoj2g?docId=3c1a407a-ba6c-4928-870d-18449a61ee6e) over the past three days alone. The clashes also injured some 61 people, including 12 members of the Lebanese army.

**Global Post-** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/middle-east/lebanon/131202/lebanese-army-manage-security-tripoli-six-months**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/middle-east/lebanon/131202/lebanese-army-manage-security-tripoli-six-months)

**Saudi Arabia**

**110,000 expelled in Saudi foreign labor crackdown**

Saudi Arabian authorities said Monday they had expelled more than 110,000 migrants since the November 4 launch of a campaign against foreign workers. "The number of offenders expelled from the beginning of the campaign on November 4 up to 8 pm (0600 GMT) on Sunday has reached 110,243," said the General Passports Administration. The nationwide crackdown started last month after the end of a seven-month amnesty for foreign migrants whose work permits had expired or who were not working for their official sponsors. The government says its actions are aimed at providing jobs for Saudis. The unemployment rate stands at 12 percent.

**NJF -** [**http://en.alalam.ir/news/1540519**](http://en.alalam.ir/news/1540519)

**Syria**

**Deadly bomb blast in central Damascus**

A bomb blast in the centre of Damascus has killed at least two people, according to reports. Syrian state news agency Sana said a suicide bomber had blown himself up in al-Jisr al-Abyad district. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said two people had been killed in the attack. State media put the death toll higher. The activist network said the target of the explosion appeared to be a government building. Rami Abdulrahman, director of the SOHR, was quoted by Reuters as saying the office was an administrative site used by relatives of dead soldiers, and that it was not a military facility. At least 17 people were injured in the blast, according to Sana.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25198394**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25198394)

**Another harsh winter bears down on Syria’s children-** **UNICEF**

Nearly 5.5 million vulnerable Syrian children will soon face another season of harsh winter weather. January of last year brought the coldest temperatures in more than a decade and UNICEF is very concerned that exposure to similarly cold and wet conditions will place further strain on the health and wellbeing of displaced Syrian children. The scale of the humanitarian response needed for the looming winter is unprecedented. In December of last year, there were approximately 1.15 million children affected by the crisis inside Syria, with an additional 232,000 Syrian children living as refugees in neighbouring countries. Today, as the conflict approaches its three year mark, those numbers have skyrocketed to 4.3 million and 1.2 million, respectively.   
**UNICEF-** [**http://www.unicef.org/index.php**](http://www.unicef.org/index.php)

**Tunisia**

**Bomb blast kills Tunisia officer near Algeria border**

A landmine killed a Tunisian army officer on Monday in the Mount Chaambi border region, where security forces have for months been hunting Al-Qaeda linked militants, the defence ministry said. Captain Youssef Dridi, a military engineer, died in the blast, which occurred at the end of an "operational mission" and which lightly injured another soldier, the official TAP news agency quoted the ministry spokesman as saying. Since last December, the security forces have been tracking jihadists holed up in the remote Mount Chaambi region that straddles the Algerian border.

**AFP-**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iTfvmuIcCIbZ8f3dykDg9km8C5Jg?docId=2d74a9f7-63f9-4c50-857b-b024452d63b6&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iTfvmuIcCIbZ8f3dykDg9km8C5Jg?docId=2d74a9f7-63f9-4c50-857b-b024452d63b6&hl=en)

**Tunisian militant landmine blast kills soldier**

A Tunisian soldier was killed and another wounded in a landmine explosion near the Algerian border where security forces are pursuing Islamist militants, the army said on Monday. Tunisia, which was long one of the most secular states in the Arab world, has been struggling to contain hardline Islamists who have become more active since the overthrow of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011.

Several blasts from improvised mines have hit the remote area of Mount Chaambi, southwest of the capital Tunis, the focus of a hunt for Islamist militants since the government began a campaign earlier this year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131202151752-xpz4s**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131202151752-xpz4s)

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Outgoing Pakistani envoy sees 'light at end of tunnel' with India**

Pakistan's outgoing envoy to New Delhi said Monday he saw “light at the end of the tunnel” in diplomatic relations and predicted the improvement would survive next year’s Indian elections. High Commissioner Salman Bashir said calm had returned to the neighbours’ de facto border in disputed Kashmir after a deadly flare-up earlier in the year and both sides were committed to improving ties. “I do not want to sound over-optimistic or exaggerate but what I am saying is that there is light at the end of the tunnel,” Bashir told a farewell press conference in the Indian capital.

**AFP -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1060026/outgoing-pakistani-envoy-sees-light-at-end-of-tunnel-with-india**](http://dawn.com/news/1060026/outgoing-pakistani-envoy-sees-light-at-end-of-tunnel-with-india)

**Bangladesh**

[**Another Bangladesh party boycotts polls as death toll mounts**](http://dawn.com/news/1060231/another-bangladesh-party-boycotts-polls-as-death-toll-mounts)

Another major Bangladesh political party Tuesday announced a boycott of the upcoming general election, declaring the country was on the “brink of disaster” as seven more people were killed in poll protests. Former dictator Hussain Muhammad Ershad said his Jatiya Party, the country's third largest and a key ally of the ruling Awami League, would not contest the January 5 elections, following in the footsteps of the opposition alliance. “Since all parties are not contesting, so the Jatiya Party will also not participate in the polls,” Ershad told reporters, adding that a “proper environment” was absent for the elections.

**AFP -** [**http://dawn.com/news/1060231/another-bangladesh-party-boycotts-polls-as-death-toll-mounts**](http://dawn.com/news/1060231/another-bangladesh-party-boycotts-polls-as-death-toll-mounts)

**India**

**Maoist rebels kill seven in eastern India: police**

Police say suspected Maoist rebels exploded a powerful land mine to kill six police officers and their driver in the eastern Indian state of Bihar. Senior police officer S.K. Bhardwaj says the team was patrolling a rebel-infested area of Aurangabad district when the rebels remotely set off a mine that was planted near a culvert. He says all seven men in the vehicle died instantly. The blast was near Tandwa village, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Bihar’s capital, Patna. The rebels are inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. They are demanding land and jobs for impoverished tribal communities they say are ignored by the government.

**AP -** [**http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/December/international\_December78.xml&section=international**](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/December/international_December78.xml&section=international)

**Pakistan**

**New Pakistani Taliban chief returns to lead group**

Intelligence officials say the new leader of the Pakistani Taliban has returned to the country from Afghanistan to lead the militant group. The officials said Tuesday that Mullah Fazlullah arrived in Pakistan's semiautonomous tribal region along the Afghan border several days ago. Fazlullah was appointed the leader of the Pakistani Taliban in November after the former chief, Hakimullah Mehsud, was killed in a US drone strike. Fazlullah was the leader of the Pakistani Taliban in the northwest Swat Valley and fled to Afghanistan after the army launched an offensive there in 2009.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistani-taliban-chief-returns-lead-group-21077924**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistani-taliban-chief-returns-lead-group-21077924)

**Sri Lanka**

**ACF accuses Sri Lanka over 'heinous' aid workers massacre**

NGO Action Against Hunger (ACF) on Tuesday accused Sri Lankan security forces of killing 17 aid workers in cold blood and then organising a cover-up of what it termed a "heinous" war crime. In a report due to be made public later in the day, the NGO said it has proof that Sri Lankan army, navy and police personnel were implicated in the August 4, 2006 massacre in the city of Muttur, in the mainly Tamil north of the island. "In one of the most heinous crimes ever committed against humanitarian workers, the 17 aid workers were lined up, forced to their knees and each shot in the head," ACF said in a statement. The aid workers, 16 ethnic Tamils and one Muslim, were killed as Sri Lankan government forces, then engaged in a civil war against Tamil Tiger separatists, took over Muttur.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131203/charity-accuses-sri-lanka-over-heinous-aid-workers-massacre**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131203/charity-accuses-sri-lanka-over-heinous-aid-workers-massacre)

**Sri Lanka shuts down war-time propaganda centre**

Sri Lanka said Monday it was shutting down its propaganda centre which distributed information to the media during the separatist war, four years after the end of the conflict. "The ministry of defence has decided to disband the centre," spokesman for the president, Mohan Samaranayake, said, without giving a reason or any details. The Media Centre for National Security was set up in 2006 and released information about the military's final campaign which crushed rebels fighting for a separate homeland for ethnic minority Tamils in 2009.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/sri-lanka-shuts-down-war-time-propaganda-centre**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/sri-lanka-shuts-down-war-time-propaganda-centre)

WCAR

**CAR**

**We also need cash, says PM**

The Central African Republic needs foreign financial assistance as well as troops, its prime minister told AFP Monday as French forces deployed in a bid to halt spiralling violence. Speaking in Bangui before flying to Paris for a 40-nation France-Africa summit, Nicolas Tiangaye said more than just military help was needed to pull his country back from the brink. The nation has been sliding into chaos since a March coup, with abuses by ex-rebels and growing sectarian violence prompting warnings that a genocide could be in the making.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/we-also-need-cash-says-cafrica-pm**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/we-also-need-cash-says-cafrica-pm)

**DR Congo**

**UN 'spies in the sky' to start in DR Congo**

The UN will start using surveillance drones for the first time in DR Congo on Tuesday in a landmark intelligence-gathering advance for the world body. The unmanned aircraft will be used to monitor the volatile border between DR Congo and Rwanda and movements by militias and armed groups in a region stricken by three decades of conflict. The UN has a huge peacekeeping mission in DR Congo, and other missions and countries are eagerly watching the first international spy drones in the hope that their use will be extended.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/un-spies-the-sky-start-dr-congo**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131202/un-spies-the-sky-start-dr-congo)

**UN force to 'attack other armed groups' in DR Congo**

The United Nations on Tuesday announced that its troops will "attack other armed groups" in the Democratic Republic of Congo, after helping to defeat the M23 rebel force. There is a "prospect of being able to attack other armed groups. Well, that's just what we are going to do," the head of UN peacekeeping operations, Herve Ladsous, said in the northeastern city of Goma, capital of strife-torn North Kivu province.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/88184/World/International/UN-force-to-attack-other-armed-groups-in-DR-Congo.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/88184/World/International/UN-force-to-attack-other-armed-groups-in-DR-Congo.aspx)

**President Kabila wants to conclude talks with rebels –statement**

President Kaibila wants talks with rebels in the country's east concluded as soon as possible, Ugandan and Congolese statements said, although there was no sign of a breakthrough on the wording of an accord that scuppered a signing last month. Kinshasa and Congo's M23 rebels failed to seal the deal after squabbles over what it should be called - the insurgents were ready to sign a peace agreement but Congo wanted to call it a declaration that reflected the rebels' military defeat.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131203090000-wlf4j/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131203090000-wlf4j/?source=hpbreaking)

**Mauritania**

**Education struggling to gear up in Mauritania’s Mbera camp - UNICEF mention**

Just 4,298 of the 14,000 primary school-aged children in Mbera refugee camp in eastern Mauritania are enrolled in camp schools, aid agencies estimate. Now that UNHCR is moving on from covering the emergency needs to longer-term issues, agencies are grappling with the challenge of getting enough schools built, improving education quality, and coming up with a continuum plan so that Malian refugee children have decent schools to return to when they go home. “Since the start [we’ve not had enough funding](http://www.irinnews.org/report/97656/call-to-end-neglect-of-emergency-education-in-mali),” said Joelle Ayité, head of education for UNICEF in Mauritania. “Since 2012 education has been a forgotten sector, despite the fact that half of the refugees are of student age.” Money has been coming in gradually, but “it’s not enough to cover the needs”, she said.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99244/education-struggling-to-gear-up-in-mauritania-s-mbera-camp**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99244/education-struggling-to-gear-up-in-mauritania-s-mbera-camp)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram launches major urban attack against Nigerian military**

Boko Haram militants launched a daring raid on the military in the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri overnight, prompting a 24-hour curfew that shut airspace and cut off roads, the army, state government and eyewitnesses said. Local residents said hundreds of heavily armed Islamist gunmen besieged an air force and army base, destroying aircraft, razing buildings and setting shops and petrol stations ablaze in a deadly rampage. The attack, which left 24 militants dead and wounded two service personnel, according to the military, comes after claims the banned group had been successfully pushed out of urban centres into more remote, rural areas of Borno state.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iZunSi9UCQkvGCXE41tGh9jTkH8A?docId=aa078dfa-4099-4328-99ba-69665132f52b**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iZunSi9UCQkvGCXE41tGh9jTkH8A?docId=aa078dfa-4099-4328-99ba-69665132f52b)

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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