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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Rwanda, Uganda tell UN envoys peace in Congo is not their problem**

The presidents of Rwanda and Uganda told UNSC envoys on Monday that their countries were not responsible for bringing peace to neighboring DRC's volatile east, which has long been mired in conflict and is bristling with armed groups. Envoys from the 15-member council met with Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali and then President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala after spending two days in Congo visiting the United Nations' largest peacekeeping operation. Britain's UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said both Kagame and Museveni described an 18-month rebellion by the M23 guerrilla group as just a symptom and not a cause of Congo's problems, which were much more deep-seated in issues such as a lack of governance.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/rwanda-uganda-tell-u-n-envoys-peace-congo-003126620.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/rwanda-uganda-tell-u-n-envoys-peace-congo-003126620.html)

CEE/CIS

**Kyrgyzstan**

**Rioters capture regional governor**

Rioters in the Kyrgyz city of Karakol captured regional governor Emilbek Kaptagaev, threatened to seize the building of the regional administration and want to meet the Kyrgyz PM, RIA Novosti reported referencing a witness. The rioters demanded the cancellation of the contract with the operator of Kumtor mine -Ganterra Gold. According to the agreement, Kyrgyzstan has about 33% in the company. In September, the Kyrgyz government and Centerra signed a memorandum of understanding on the project restructuring. The parties agreed to create a new joint venture on a parity basis. Protesters demand the withdraw of the memorandum and the transfer of at least 67% in the gold deposit to Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyz 24.kg news agency reported that it had contacted by phone with the captured governor. He said he is not in danger, and continues negotiating with the rioters.

**Trend -** [**http://en.trend.az/regions/casia/kyrgyzstan/2198606.html**](http://en.trend.az/regions/casia/kyrgyzstan/2198606.html)

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**Serbia, Kosovo settle row over election campaign**

Serbia and Kosovo have reached a deal to allow politicians from Belgrade to campaign during a Kosovo municipal election on 3 November, smoothing over a row that had underscored the fragility of relations between the two. Last week, Serbia's PM threatened to pull out of talks with Kosovo - mediated by the EU and intended to improve relations between Belgrade and Pristina over the long-term - after the former Serbian province denied him permission to visit. After a late-night meeting in Brussels on Monday, Ivica Dacic said the issue was resolved.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-settle-row-over-election-campaign-234917978.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/serbia-kosovo-settle-row-over-election-campaign-234917978.html)

**Turkey**

**Forty detained in sweeping raids in Istanbul neighborhoods**

A total of 40 people were detained in Istanbul on Monday in sweeping pre-dawn raids in two neighborhoods. The suspects were arrested in operation launched by 1,500 members of the special police forces and riot teams with helicopter support, according to a report from Daily News. A long-barreled weapon and four pistols were seized during the raids in the Gulsuyu and Gulensu neighborhoods of the Maltepe district in the Anatolian side of Istanbul as well as the Gazi neighborhood of the Sultangazi district on the European side. The raids came days after Interior Minister Muammer Guler vowed to crack down on illegal organizations, drug gangs and urban bandits after the appearance of a group of armed people at Thursday's commemoration ceremony for a slain anti-drug protester.

**Xinhua -** [**http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/07/c\_132777430.htm**](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-10/07/c_132777430.htm)

EAPR

**China**

**At least 5 dead after Typhoon Fitow hits**

Five people were killed and hundreds of thousands evacuated after Typhoon Fitow hit eastern China, state media reported on Tuesday. Packing winds up to 151km per hour, Fitow hit Fuding city in Fujian province early on Monday before weakening into a tropical storm later in the day, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Four people are still missing, Xinhua said on Tuesday. In Wenzhou city in Zhejiang province, the storm destroyed over 1,700 houses and 46,800 hectares of crop land as well as killing many farm animals, CCTV said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131008084116-gopkr/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131008084116-gopkr/?source=hptop)

**Myanmar**

**Inter-communal violence hits town near Rangoon**

Fresh inter-communal violence was reported near Rangoon over the weekend, as a mob attack by Buddhist residents of Kyaung Gone, an Irrawaddy Division town, destroyed at least three Muslim-owned homes. The attack in Kyaung Gone, located about 110km from Rangoon, comes on the heels of an outbreak of inter-communal violence in western Burma’s Arakan State last week and raises the possibility of a further spread of anti-Muslim violence through other parts of the country. Kyaw Khin, chief secretary of the All Myanmar Muslim Federation, said the unrest had been sparked by allegations that a Muslim man had attempted to rape a 14-year-old Buddhist girl a month ago.

**Irrawady -** [**http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/inter-communal-violence-hits-town-near-rangoon.html**](http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/inter-communal-violence-hits-town-near-rangoon.html)

**Authorities free prisoners ahead of regional summit**

Myanmar's president pardoned 56 political prisoners Tuesday, an amnesty apparently timed to highlight the government's reforms ahead of a regional summit as well as important negotiations with a rebel group at home. President Thein Sein ordered the prisoners' release just ahead of a forum in Brunei to be attended by leaders from across Southeast Asia and the Pacific. At the Associated of Southeast Asian Nations summit, Myanmar is expected to face tough questions about ongoing sectarian violence that has targeted Muslims. It has become a pattern for prisoner amnesties in Myanmar to coincide with high-profile international meetings as a way of highlighting the nominally civilian government's reforms since taking office after years of absolute military rule.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-frees-prisoners-ahead-regional-summit-20501766**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/myanmar-frees-prisoners-ahead-regional-summit-20501766)

ESAR

**Kenya**

**Intelligence report shows persistent threats**

An internal report by Kenya's National Intelligence Service shows that it believes al-Qaida-linked extremists pose multiple threats to the country and indicates a high level of penetration into their operations. The report contains security briefings over the past year for Kenyan government and security officials. Authorities have been accused of bungling the operation to retake Nairobi's upscale Westgate Mall from terrorists who stormed into it on 21 September, killing more than 60 people and holding parts of it for several days.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/kenya-intelligence-report-shows-persistent-threats-173507569.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/kenya-intelligence-report-shows-persistent-threats-173507569.html)

**South Sudan**

**Abyei returnees face shortage of basic services**

In recent weeks, Abyei has seen an influx of people returning home to take part in a referendum proposed for October to determine the status of the disputed region. “The situation is very bad, there are no shelters for the returnees, and also there are problems of health facilities, no drugs,” said Nyanaguek Kuol Marieng, the state’s information minister and head of the delegation. “The hard thing we have is the lack of water because of population pressure, and the hand pumps at Aniet south of Abyei are not enough now due to the population pressure,” she said. Sudan and South Sudan are yet to agree on who is an eligible voter.

**Miraya -** [**http://www.radiomiraya.org/news-202/south-sudan/12205-abyei-returnees-face-shortage-of-basic-services.html#gsc.tab=0**](http://www.radiomiraya.org/news-202/south-sudan/12205-abyei-returnees-face-shortage-of-basic-services.html#gsc.tab=0)

LAC

**Brazil**

**Clashes erupt at teachers' protest**

Clashes have broken out in Rio de Janeiro as striking teachers and their supporters took to the streets to protest against salary levels and a police crackdown on earlier demonstrations. Organizers rallied thousands in centre of the Brazilian city on Monday night to demonstrate for the teachers, who are demanding pay increases and an overhaul of the education system. Protesters also spoke out against what many considered to be an excessive use of police force on demonstrating teachers a week ago. The demonstrators have already rejected the government's proposals of a 15% pay rise.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/10/clashes-erupt-at-brazil-teachers-protest-201310823940227165.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/10/clashes-erupt-at-brazil-teachers-protest-201310823940227165.html)

**Police move on Rio slums in 'pacification' drive**

Brazilian police moved into a series of favelas (slums) in Rio de Janeiro Sunday, continuing a drive to pacify the poor neighbourhoods despite a police brutality scandal that has raised questions about the tactic. Backed by Brazilian marines in armoured vehicles, more than 1,000 police poured into a dozen of the slum neighbourhoods in northern Rio just after dawn, meeting no resistance, AFP journalists on the scene said. The deployment of so-called Police Pacification Units aims to wrest control of poor hillside neighbourhoods from drug gangs and bring down violent crime in the city. But the police tactics have come under scrutiny after 10 members of one pacification unit were arrested this week for the torture and killing of a bricklayer who disappeared in July from Rocinha, the city's largest favela with 70,000 inhabitants.

**France 24 -** [**http://www.france24.com/en/20131007-brazil-police-rio-slums-pacification-drive**](http://www.france24.com/en/20131007-brazil-police-rio-slums-pacification-drive)

**Cuba**

**Government once more seeks UN condemnation of US embargo**

For the 22nd consecutive year, Cuba will ask the UN to condemn the US economic embargo against the island, a top Cuban official announced on Monday, accusing Washington of tightening sanctions in place for more than half a century. US President Barack Obama, who stated before taking office that he wanted to recast long-hostile US-Cuba relations, has been a disappointment to the Cuban government, which expected him to do more to dismantle the embargo. The embargo, fully in place since 1962, has done "astronomical" economic harm, Deputy FM Abelardo Moreno said during a news conference to present Cuba's annual report on the damage wrought on by US sanctions.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/cuba-once-more-seeks-u-n-condemnation-u-174836792.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/cuba-once-more-seeks-u-n-condemnation-u-174836792.html)

**Venezuela**

**Lawmakers to debate special powers for Maduro**

Venezuela's legislature starts debate Tuesday on granting special powers to President Nicolas Maduro for use fighting corruption, a move opponents say could lead to witch hunts. Just two months before crucial municipal elections, elected leftist Maduro will personally ask the National Assembly to grant him power to toughen laws on corruption. But the measure is one vote short of the number needed for approval under the country's constitution. And complaints have already started surfacing from opposition and independent legislators that they have been pressured to cast the missing vote. To pass the act, which authorizes the president to issue "decrees with the force of law" three-fifths of the 165 National Assembly deputies must approve the measure.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/venezuelan-lawmakers-debate-special-powers-maduro-002820200.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/venezuelan-lawmakers-debate-special-powers-maduro-002820200.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Preparing for MERS virus ahead of Hajj pilgrimage**

Public health officials in the Gulf states are playing down fears about an outbreak of the deadly MERS coronavirus among pilgrims travelling to the Hajj in Saudi Arabia this month, though doctors are advising the elderly, people with existing health conditions, pregnant women and young children to stay away. As of 4 October, according to WHO, laboratories in the region had confirmed 136 cases of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), including 58 deaths since April 2012. Most cases and deaths have been in Saudi Arabia, where two million Muslims are expected to converge in mid-October for the annual Hajj pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Madinah.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98889/preparing-for-mers-virus-ahead-of-hajj-pilgrimage**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98889/preparing-for-mers-virus-ahead-of-hajj-pilgrimage)

**Egypt**

**Death toll from clashes rises to 57: ministry**

The death toll from weekend clashes between Islamists and police has reached 57, a senior Egyptian health ministry official said on Tuesday. Khaled al-Khatib said that 48 people died in Cairo and nine in other parts of the country. Authorities had previously given a toll of 51. Khatib said a total of 391 people had been injured throughout the country. Clashes erupted on Sunday as supporters of ousted president Mohamed Morsi tried to galvanise protests around the country but were dispersed by police.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-08/233962-death-toll-from-egypt-clashes-rises-to-57-ministry.ashx#axzz2h8V7SONr**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Oct-08/233962-death-toll-from-egypt-clashes-rises-to-57-ministry.ashx#axzz2h8V7SONr)

**Government revokes permit for Brotherhood's NGO**

Egypt's interim government has revoked the permit for a NGO set up by the Muslim Brotherhood. Tuesday's move by the Cabinet is the latest in its push to dismantle the Brotherhood, from which ousted President Mohammed Morsi hails. It follows a 23 September court ruling that banned the Brotherhood and its affiliates, and ordered its assets confiscated. The Brotherhood's NGO was registered in March, while Morsi was still in power. It was set up as one of the two main legal faces of the Islamist group, which was outlawed for most of its 85-year existence.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/wave-deadly-attacks-egypt-kills-20492600**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/wave-deadly-attacks-egypt-kills-20492600)

**Iraq**

**UN envoy appalled by deadly suicide bomb attack on children in school playground – UNICEF mention**

Deploring the “appalling” suicide bomb attack that killed over 10 children and injured dozens more in northern Iraq, a senior UN official Monday appealed to the conflict-wracked country’s political, religious and civil leaders to find a way to put an end to the violence. “It is our collective duty to protect children as well as their places of learning,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui said in a statement on Sunday’s attack in which the bomber detonated a truck filled with explosives on a school playground in a village in Mosul Province.

**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46212&Cr=iraq&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46212&Cr=iraq&Cr1)**=**

**Syria**

**Air strikes target rebel assault on key bases**

Syrian regime war planes on Tuesday launched strikes against rebels in northwestern Idlib province after they began an assault against two key military bases there, a monitoring group said. "War planes carried out two air strikes on areas in the town of Maaret al-Numan as clashes continued around the Wadi Deif military base between rebels and regime troops," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The group said regime forces also bombed the areas of Maarshamsha and Deir al-Sharqi in the Maaret al-Numan region, causing casualties. The strikes came a day after rebel fighters launched a major assault against the two bases in Syria's Idlib province, which is largely controlled by the opposition.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/101323-syria-air-strikes-target-rebel-assault-on-key-bases**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/101323-syria-air-strikes-target-rebel-assault-on-key-bases)

**UN chief outlines Syria chemical weapons plan**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has proposed the formation of a 100-member strong mission to oversee the cataloguing and destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, according to a letter from the UN chief to the Security Council. Ban said that international chemical weapons inspectors and support staff were operating in a "dangerous and volatile" environment, and that such a mission, to be conducted in three phases and ending 30 June 2014, was unprecedented. The joint mission of the UN and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) "will seek to conduct an operation the likes of which, quite simply, have never been tried before," Ban said, in a report to the UNSC on Monday.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/un-chief-outlines-syria-chemical-weapons-plan-201310801911178169.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/un-chief-outlines-syria-chemical-weapons-plan-201310801911178169.html)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**Hamid Karzai blasts NATO for 'suffering'**

Hamid Karzai has lashed at Britain and the US for causing "a lot of loss of life" without bringing security in a sign of the deteriorating relationship between the Afghan president and the West. Six months before he steps down from office and a year before international forces end their combat mission, Mr Karzai gave a blistering interview attacking the 12-year Western war effort. "On the security front the entire NATO exercise was one that caused Afghanistan a lot of suffering, a lot of loss of life, and no gains because the country is not secure," Mr Karzai told the BBC. He also insisted that the rights of Afghan women would not be rolled back by an eventual peace deal with the Taliban, which could see the militant group given roles within government.

**Telegraph -** [**http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/10362302/Hamid-Karzai-blasts-Nato-for-Afghanistan-suffering.html**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/10362302/Hamid-Karzai-blasts-Nato-for-Afghanistan-suffering.html)

**Maldives**

**Government asks for support after election annulled**

The Maldives government on Tuesday urged all parties to support fresh elections after the Supreme Court annulled last month's results, even though international observers had said those polls were free and fair. The government of the honeymoon islands also called for foreign support for the new presidential polls expected to be held by 20 October amid deepening international concern about political turmoil in the country. The court late Monday ordered a fresh ballot, annulling the first round of voting on 7 September which was won by former leader Mohamed Nasheed who claims he was ousted in a coup last year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iboTUBUyQZ9mpMtRpXl\_7nx5kHng?docId=890a64fc-a58a-44e7-b7ef-da327ffe0f9a**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iboTUBUyQZ9mpMtRpXl_7nx5kHng?docId=890a64fc-a58a-44e7-b7ef-da327ffe0f9a)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistani Taliban vow to attack Malala again**

The Pakistani Taliban on Monday said schoolgirl campaigner Malala Yousafzai had "no courage" and vowed to attack her again if they got the chance. Gunmen sent by the Taliban tried to kill Malala on her school bus on 9 October last year. She amazingly survived being shot in the head and has become a global ambassador for the right of all children -- girls as well as boys -- to go to school. Having spread a message of "education for all" across the globe, the 16-year-old is now among the favourites for the Nobel Peace Prize, which will be awarded on Friday. But Shahidullah Shahid, spokesman for the main Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) umbrella group, slammed Malala and said they would try again to kill her.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/83444/World/International/Pakistani-Taliban-vow-to-attack-Malala-again.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/9/83444/World/International/Pakistani-Taliban-vow-to-attack-Malala-again.aspx)

WACR

**DR Congo**

**Congo under pressure to prosecute soldiers accused of rape**

The US and Britain pushed DRC officials to prosecute soldiers accused of raping some 130 women and girls in Congo’s volatile east, UNSC envoys said during a visit to the country on Sunday. US ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, and British UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant raised the issue during a meeting between the 15 Security Council envoys and Congo’s defence, interior and justice ministers in Kinshasa on Saturday. “Nobody knows better than the Congolese the price of impunity, because the Congolese people have for years been the victims of armed groups who have been killing and raping their way through eastern Congo,” Power said on Sunday.

**Reuters -** [**http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/congo-under-pressure-to-prosecute-soldiers-accused-of-rape-1.1240251?utm\_content=1.1240251&utm\_medium=RSS&utm\_source=Feeds&utm\_campaign=Congo\_under\_pressure\_to\_prosecute\_soldiers\_accused\_of\_rape&localLinksEnabled=false&utm\_term=News\_RSS\_feed**](http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/congo-under-pressure-to-prosecute-soldiers-accused-of-rape-1.1240251?utm_content=1.1240251&utm_medium=RSS&utm_source=Feeds&utm_campaign=Congo_under_pressure_to_prosecute_soldiers_accused_of_rape&localLinksEnabled=false&utm_term=News_RSS_feed)

**Gambia**

**Raising red flags over human rights**

Human rights organizations have repeatedly denounced the Gambian regime for forced disappearances, illegal detention, denial of due process, and the abuse and harassment of critics. Yet little progress has been achieved, and local activists are seeing their ability to act recede. On 2 October, President Yahya Jammeh announced the Gambia was withdrawing from the 54-member Commonwealth of mainly British ex-colonies, calling it a “neo-colonial institution”; some analysts say the move was linked to criticism over his country’s human rights record. In 2012, for the first time, the UK Foreign Office included the Gambia as a human rights offender in its annual Human Rights and Democracy report.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/98893/raising-red-flags-over-human-rights-in-the-gambia**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/98893/raising-red-flags-over-human-rights-in-the-gambia)

**Guinea**

**Opposition pulls out of UN-mediated talks**

Guinea's opposition has pulled out of political talks mediated by a UN special envoy in the latest sign of discontent with the country's recent legislative elections. Opposition spokesman Lansana Kouyate said Monday that the country's opposition parties had unanimously decided to suspend participation in the talks mediated by Said Djinnit. The parties had already withdrawn their representatives from Guinea's electoral commission and demanded that results from the hotly contested 28 September vote be thrown out because of alleged fraud. The vote was intended to complete Guinea's transition to democratic rule following the country's first democratic presidential election in 2010, won by Alpha Conde.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/guinea-opposition-pulls-mediated-talks-20497616**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/guinea-opposition-pulls-mediated-talks-20497616)

**Mali**

**Suspected jihadists attack 2 bridges in north**

Suspected Islamic militants set off explosions at two bridges in northern Mali, residents said Tuesday, as violence escalated in the region following months of relative calm after the jihadists were ousted by a French-led military intervention. The dynamite attacks on the bridges came hours after other suspected militants fired mortar rounds on the city of Gao, wounding at least seven people in the first significant assault inside the town since late March. Resident Ousmane Maiga said that two bridges were attacked along the road from Niger's border to Gao, the most populous town in the region and the base of the French military's operation. Olivier Salgado, spokesman MINUSMA, confirmed the attacks on bridges both near the town of Ansongo. The extent of damage at the second bridge in the village of Bara was not immediately known, he said. The French military had no immediate comment on the reported attacks. The first bridge is near the Niger border about 200km from Gao, while the second is located in a village about 160km from Gao.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/suspected-jihadists-attack-bridges-mali-20503367**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/suspected-jihadists-attack-bridges-mali-20503367)

**Nigeria**

**National Conference will not disintegrate Nigeria**

Goodluck Jonathan on Monday inaugurated a 13-member National Dialogue Advisory Committee with the re-assurance that the outcome of the assignment would lead to the disintegration of the country. In an address at the ceremony held at the Council Chamber of the Presidential Villa in Abuja, Jonathan said the conference would not negotiate the integrity of the nation. He assured that the outcome would further strengthen national unity and address inequalities and injustices, among others. “For me, there is no alternative to inclusivity, equity and justice in a modern democratic state” he said.  
**Nigeria Guardian -** [**http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/national-news/134861-national-conference-will-not-disintegrate-nigeria-says-jonathan**](http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/national-news/134861-national-conference-will-not-disintegrate-nigeria-says-jonathan)

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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