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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**6.6 million children under 5 died last year** – **UNICEF mention**

Childhood death rates around the world have halved since 1990 but an estimated 6.6 million children under the age of 5 still died last year, the U.N. children's agency said Friday. Nearly half of all children who die are in five countries: Nigeria, Congo, India, Pakistan and China, it said in a report. "Progress can and must be made," said Anthony Lake, UNICEF's executive director. "When concerted action, sound strategies, adequate resources and strong political will are harnessed in support of child and maternal survival, dramatic reductions in child mortality aren't just feasible, they are morally imperative."

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/66-million-children-died-year-20245441**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/66-million-children-died-year-20245441)

**Putin hails Syria’s action on chemical weapons ban**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Syria's move to join an international convention banning chemical weapons has proven its good faith and reaffirmed a strong warning to the U.S. not to use force. Speaking at a summit of an international security grouping dominated by Russia and China, Putin said the move showed that Syria has "serious intentions to follow this path." "I would like to voice hope that this will mark a serious step toward the settlement of the Syrian crisis," Putin said.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/putin-hails-syrias-action-chemical-weapons-ban-20245111**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/putin-hails-syrias-action-chemical-weapons-ban-20245111)

CEE/CIS

**Romania**

**Floods kill eight, hundreds evacuated**

Flash floods in eastern Romania have killed eight people, including a child, authorities said Thursday, updating an earlier toll of four dead. Rescuers saved 330 people from flooded areas overnight and another 45 who were threatened by rising waters, the interior ministry said in a statement. Hundreds of houses were inundated. "Heavy downpours led to the rapid rise of the waters of two rivers," the spokeswoman for the eastern Galati region, Petrica Patilea, told AFP. Among the victims was an eight-year-old girl in the village of Cudalbi who was swept away from her father's arms.

**AFP-**

**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130912/floods-kill-eight-romania-hundreds-evacuated**

**Turkey**

**Turkey suffers third night of clashes**

Turkish police used water cannon and tear gas to break up fresh anti-government protests in Istanbul, amid anger over the death of a demonstrator earlier in the week. Officers faced up to 3,000 angry protesters on a second consecutive day of demonstrations in the Kadikoy district, an opposition stronghold. The police fired tear gas, water cannon and plastic pellets to break up the crowd as it approached the local offices of the ruling AKP party. The incidents lasted several hours and ran into the early hours of Friday. Many protesters were arrested, the AFP news agency said.

**AFP -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/09/20139130207167553.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/09/20139130207167553.html)

EAPR

**Across EAPR**

**Man abducted by NKorea escapes after 41 Years**

A South Korean man abducted by North Korea has escaped and returned home after 41 years, government officials and activists said Friday. Jeon Wook-pyo, 68, was one of 25 crewmen on board two boats captured by North Korea in the Yellow Sea in 1972, according to Choi Sung-yung of the Abductees' Family Union. Jeon, who fled North Korea in early August, is the only one of the crewmen to have escaped, Choi said. Kim Hyung-suk, a spokesman with South Korea's Unification Ministry, which is responsible for inter-Korean affairs, confirmed to reporters in a briefing Friday that the man had safely returned to the South but provided no other details.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/skorean-abducted-nkorea-escapes-41-years-20244819**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/skorean-abducted-nkorea-escapes-41-years-20244819)

**Cambodia**

**Bomb found near Cambodian parliament**  
A home-made bomb was discovered Friday near Cambodia's parliament, police said, adding to tensions in the capital in the wake of strongman Prime Minister Hun Sen's disputed election win. The makeshift bomb -- made from TNT powder in a plastic container -- was safely detonated by explosive experts, causing a loud bang that shook some nearby buildings, military police spokesman Kheng Tito told AFP. Police also found three M79 rockets -- tied together -- close to Democracy Park, the location of opposition protests against the results of hotly disputed elections held in July.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/13/bomb-found-near-cambodian-parliament/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/13/bomb-found-near-cambodian-parliament/)

**Myanmar**

**Fighting escalates in Kachin state**

Fighting is increasing in north Burma’s Kachin State, after peace talks last week between the government and delegations of ethnic armed groups in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai ended without agreement. A few days after the Chiang Mai meeting, sources from Kachin State reported a rise in clashes, saying the Burma Army was reinforcing troops and could be preparing for another major offensive against rebels from the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO). Fighting was reported early this week in the southern part of the state in Machang Baw Township, Banmaw District as well as in the northern part of neighboring Shan State.

**Irrawaddy -** [**http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/43904**](http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/43904)

**Philippines**

**New clash raises fears of a wider threat**

Two small, ultraviolent rebel groups joined forces to fight government troops Thursday in the southern Philippines, in a clash that occurred on an island adjacent to the city where several hundred rebels are in a standoff with the Philippine military. The violence raised fears of a widening of the insurgent threat in the area, where the government has for decades been struggling to contain attacks by Muslim-led groups.   
**NYT -** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/13/world/asia/attack-raises-fears-of-muslim-led-insurgency-in-philippines.html**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/13/world/asia/attack-raises-fears-of-muslim-led-insurgency-in-philippines.html)

Leader visits war-torn southern city  
The presidential palace declined to give details of Aquino's trip, which came on the fifth day of an incursion by up to 180 Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) guerrillas concentrated in six coastal areas. "We will secure him wherever he wants to go," military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Ramon Zagala told AFP, downplaying potential threats to Aquino's safety. "He has arrived there. He flew to Zamboanga," Aquino spokeswoman Abigail Valte said in a statement. Aquino was meeting with city officials, an AFP reporter said. There was no immediate word on whether he would visit the conflict areas.  
**AFP -** [**http://news.xin.msn.com/en/regional/philippines/philippine-leader-visits-war-torn-southern-city**](http://news.xin.msn.com/en/regional/philippines/philippine-leader-visits-war-torn-southern-city)

ESARO

**Across ESAR  
Tanzania expels over 25 000 Burundians**

At least 25 000 Burundian refugees living in Tanzania have been forcibly repatriated over the past month, a UN official reported, describing a "dramatic" humanitarian situation. Close to a million refugees fled from Burundi to stable Tanzania when civil war broke out in 1993, and most returned voluntarily after the conflict in their country ended in 2006. But patience appears to have run out in Tanzania, which has hosted millions of refugees over the past decades from conflicts across Africa's Great Lakes region, and authorities have been accelerating expulsions of refugees from Burundi, Rwanda and the DR Congo. Tanzania views the refugees as illegal immigrants.

**AFP** - [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Tanzania-expels-over-25-000-Burundians-20130912-2**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Tanzania-expels-over-25-000-Burundians-20130912-2)

**Burundi**

**Prosecutors opens probe into ex-rebel over massacre**

Prosecutors in Burundi announced Thursday they had opened a formal probe into an ex-rebel chief accused of involvement in the massacre of refugees nine years ago. Refugees in Burundi had lodged a complaint against Agathon Rwasa, who they say ordered a 2004 refugee camp massacre of some 160 Congolese Tutsis in Gatumba, to the west of the Burundi capital Bujumbura. Rwasa, 49, once headed the National Liberation Forces (FNL), a guerrilla force that has since become a political party.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/12/burundi-opens-probe-into-ex-rebel-over-massacre/**](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/09/12/burundi-opens-probe-into-ex-rebel-over-massacre/)

**Namibia**

**Ongoing drought knocks grazing in south**

The drought in Namibia is also affecting communal farmers in the Keetmanshoop area in terms of grazing, even though the resilient Swakara breed is the main component of animal husbandry in the region. With farms around Keetmanshoop only receiving about 50mm of rain in April this year, water should be the main concern but is not. The big worry is the poor grazing which provides little or no nutrition for the animals. According to communal farmers in the area they have been left with no option but to fortify the grazing with animal fodder, which supplements nourishment for the farm animals.  
**New Era -** [**http://www.newera.com.na/2013/09/12/ongoing-drought-knocks-grazing-south-2/**](http://www.newera.com.na/2013/09/12/ongoing-drought-knocks-grazing-south-2/)

**Somalia**

**UN envoy condemns attack on Jubba administration leader**

The top UN official in Somalia strongly condemned the violent attack on a vehicle in which Ahmad Muhammad Islam Madobe, leader of the interim Jubba administration was in Kismayo. According to a statement released by a spokesperson for Nicholas Kay, head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Ahmad Muhammad Islam is reported to have escaped serious injury however his bodyguards and innocent civilians were killed when his car was hit by another vehicle carrying explosives in Kismayo.  
**UN News Centre** - [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45841&Cr=somalia&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45841&Cr=somalia&Cr1)**=**

**Amnesty criticises evictions in Mogadishu**

Amnesty International has denounced the forcible eviction of tens of thousands of homeless people from makeshift camps in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. The human rights group says the process has led to "large-scale human rights abuses" including the killing of two people during protests. Some 370,000 people have been living in the camps, having fled drought, famine and fighting. But their presence is hampering the government's drive to rebuild the city. In the past year the authorities have gained greater control of Mogadishu from the Islamist group al-Shabab.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24075841#**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24075841#)

**South Sudan**

**Army unlawfully killed civilians**

South Sudan’s army has unlawfully killed and committed other serious violations against civilians in the context of a counterinsurgency campaign. The action in Jonglei State has forced thousands of people to flee their homes, making them more vulnerable to attack from rival ethnic groups. South Sudan should hold all abusive soldiers to account and bolster military and civilian justice to curb further violations. The report also describes how the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers burned and looted homes, physically and verbally abused civilians, and destroyed schools, churches, and the compounds of aid agencies providing life-saving assistance.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/12/south-sudan-army-unlawfully-killed-civilians**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/12/south-sudan-army-unlawfully-killed-civilians)

**More than 220,000 affected as floods expected to worsen**

Some 223,000 people have been affected by floods in South Sudan in the last three months and the government warned that the situation could worsen as torrential rains in rural areas continue and rivers overflow their banks.

“The country and I are deeply concerned by the suffering brought by this natural disaster,” the President said, as he announced $2.2million in aid for flood victims. The floods, concentrated in the northern and central areas of the country, have been raging since July. The rainy season is only expected to end in November, or even later. The UN mission said there is extensive damage to the country’s already weak infrastructure, including bridges and roads. UN engineers were working to fortify the banks of the Nile River, to help prevent further damage.

**DPA** - [**http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/365582/220,000-affected-by-south-sudan-floods**](http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/365582/220,000-affected-by-south-sudan-floods)

**More than 220,000 affected as floods expected to worsen**

Some 223,000 people have been affected by floods in South Sudan in the last three months and the government warned Thursday the situation could worsen as torrential rains in rural areas continue and rivers overflow their banks. "The country and I are deeply concerned by the suffering brought by this natural disaster," said President Salva Kiir, as he announced 2.2 million dollars in aid for flood victims. The floods, concentrated in the northern and central areas of the East African nation, have been raging since July. The rainy season is only expected to end in November, or even later

**DPA -** [**http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/365582/220,000-affected-by-south-sudan-floods**](http://www.gulf-times.com/region/216/details/365582/220,000-affected-by-south-sudan-floods)

**Kiir urges Abyei citizens to return home in preparation for referendum vote**

South Sudanese president Salva Kiir Mayardit has urged the citizens of the contested region of Abyei to return home in preparation for a referendum vote, despite Khartoum’s rejection of the African Union-backed proposal. Kiir made the remarks while delivering a speech dedicated to the current flood crisis that hit six of 10 South Sudan states and displaced thousands of people since heavy rains begun in August. He said his administration continued to urge the international community to exert pressure on Sudan to accept the conduct of the referendum as the only viable solution to resolve the dispute over the area.  
**Sudan Tribune -** [**http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48028**](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article48028)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Interim President extends emergency laws**

Egypt's interim president has extended a nationwide state of emergency by two months, citing security conditions. The presidential decree Thursday comes days before the expiration of the state of emergency imposed in August after authorities cleared two protest encampments held by supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, unleashing violence that claimed the lives of nearly 1,000 in subsequent days. Ever since, a nighttime curfew has also been in effect in a number of governorates. The government will decide separately on whether to continue the curfew. The decree said the state of emergency, which gives greater powers of arrest to security forces, was extended because of security conditions.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-court-acquits-police-protester-deaths-20233340**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-court-acquits-police-protester-deaths-20233340)

**Cairo accuses Gaza's Hamas of training Egyptian militants**  
Egyptian state television accused Palestinian Hamas on Thursday of training Egyptian Islamists in how to carry out bombings, putting more pressure on the Muslim Brotherhood, ally of Hamas. In neighboring Gaza, the ruling Hamas Islamists strongly denied the allegations. Egypt has faced turmoil since the army forced the Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi from the presidency in July. A week ago, the interior minister survived an assassination attempt in Cairo, amid fears the country could face an Islamist insurgency.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.indianexpress.com/news/egyptian-state-television-accused-palestinian-hamas-on-thursday-of-training-egyptian-islamists-in-how-to-carry-out-bombings-putting-more-pressure-on-the-muslim-brotherhood-ally-of-hamas./1168718/**](http://www.indianexpress.com/news/egyptian-state-television-accused-palestinian-hamas-on-thursday-of-training-egyptian-islamists-in-how-to-carry-out-bombings-putting-more-pressure-on-the-muslim-brotherhood-ally-of-hamas./1168718/)

**Army in major push to eradicate Sinai militants**

In recent days the Egyptian army has launched a major military campaign against militants in the northern Sinai Peninsula. Government spokesmen have said they intend to "fully cleanse" the area of militants, and military sources say 22,000 soldiers have been deployed to help bring this about. Egyptian military sources say the campaign will take at least six months. The Egyptian army has cracked down on Sinai militants on occasions in the past, but experts say this time the operation is of a different order of magnitude.  
**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24069130**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24069130)

**Jordan**

**Jordan appeals for aid to cope with Syrian refugees**

Jordan needs hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to cope with the mounting number of Syrian refugees, Social Development Minister Reem Abu Hassan reported. There were already more than one million Syrian refugees in Jordan and health and education services were absolutely stretched, Abu Hassan reported. The Jordanian government puts the number of refugees at around 580,000 but says the number of Syrians living in the country is about 1.2 million. Abu Hassan said that the humanitarian crisis in Jordan could spark the animosity of locals, who have been hitherto welcoming.   
**AFP** - [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130912-jordan-appeals-aid-cope-with-syrian-refugees**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130912-jordan-appeals-aid-cope-with-syrian-refugees)

**Sudan**

**SPLM-N calls for mass protests**

In response to new austerity measures announced by the Khartoum government, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has called for peaceful protests to topple Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir. In exclusive interview with Asharq Al-Awsat, SPLM-N secretary-general Yasir Arman said that the new measures announced by the ruling National Congress Party to increase the price of fuel are just the tip of the iceberg, adding that Sudan is facing a comprehensive structural and administrative crisis and that the ruling party continually attempts to resolve government crises at the expense of the poor.   
**Asharq Al-Awsat -** [**http://www.aawsat.net/2013/09/article55316633**](http://www.aawsat.net/2013/09/article55316633)

**Syria**

**Mass Executions by Government Forces**Syrian government and pro-government forces executed at least 248 people in the towns of al-Bayda and Baniyas on May 2 and 3, 2013, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. It was one of the deadliest instances of mass summary executions since the start of the conflict in Syria. The Syrian government acknowledged its military operations in al-Bayda and Baniyas but said that its forces had killed only “terrorists.” Ali Haidar, minister of state for national reconciliation affairs, told the Wall Street Journal that “mistakes” may have been committed in the operations and that a government committee was investigating.  
**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/13/syria-mass-executions-government-forces**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/13/syria-mass-executions-government-forces)

**Syria says now full member of chemical arms pact, doubts persist**

Syria became a full member of the global anti-chemical weapons treaty, the country's U.N. envoy said, a move that the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad had promised as part of a Russian plan to avoid US air strikes. The United States reacted cautiously. Several UN diplomats and a UN official reported that it was not yet clear that Syria had fulfilled all the conditions for legal accession to the treaty.

**Reuters** - [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/12/us-syria-crisis-un-idUSBRE98B0UL20130912**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/12/us-syria-crisis-un-idUSBRE98B0UL20130912)

**Yemen**

**Call for support to provide food assistance to 10 million at risk of hunger – UNICEF mention**

Two senior United Nations officials today urged the international community to scale up its financial support for chronically food-insecure Yemen, where 10 million people are in need of assistance. “Yemen is a country wracked by chronic poverty and underdevelopment, and millions of Yemenis are struggling to cope,” said Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos. “People need food, water, education and health care. But they also want to know that there is investment to secure their future. We urgently need more funding to help those in need.”   
**UN -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45838&Cr=yemen&Cr1**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45838&Cr=yemen&Cr1)**=**

ROSA

**Across ROSA**

**Pakistan, India spar in Kashmir in worst border violence in years**  
After a decade of relative quiet, Indian and Pakistani troops are shelling each other with vigor again along their disputed border, raising tension between the nuclear-armed nations and forcing hundreds of villagers to flee. Many fear there is worse to come. As the American military withdraws from Afghanistan, some Pakistan-based militants who had been fighting there have pledged to turn their attention to the Kashmir border region — and their old foe, India. Already, there are signs that militant activity is on the rise in this area, with graffiti appearing saying “Welcome Taliban.”   
**Washington Post -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-india-spar-in-kashmir-in-worst-border-violence-in-years-sparking-fears-of-bloodshed/2013/09/12/449cc756-14bc-11e3-b182-1b3bb2eb474c\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-india-spar-in-kashmir-in-worst-border-violence-in-years-sparking-fears-of-bloodshed/2013/09/12/449cc756-14bc-11e3-b182-1b3bb2eb474c_story.html)

**Afghanistan**

**Gunfight follows 2 suicide bombings at a U.S. Consulate**

Taliban militants set off two suicide bombs in an attack on a U.S. Consulate in western Afghanistan Friday morning, triggering a gun battle with security forces that left at least two Afghans and seven attackers dead. The U.S. said all its personnel from the consulate in the city of Herat were safe and American forces later moved in to secure the site. The attack underscored the perilous security situation in Afghanistan, where U.S.-led troops are reducing their presence ahead of a full withdrawal next year.

**CBS/AP -** [**http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\_162-57602770/gunfight-follows-car-bombing-at-a-u.s-consulate-in-afghanistan/**](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57602770/gunfight-follows-car-bombing-at-a-u.s-consulate-in-afghanistan/)

**U.S. poised to ramp up withdrawal of gear from Afghanistan**

The Pentagon is poised to ramp up its withdrawal of military equipment from Afghanistan in a massive logistics effort expected to cost up to $7 billion, a defense official said. The U.S. military is planning to send home some 24,000 vehicles and 20,000 shipping containers of gear collected in Afghanistan during a dozen years of war, the official said. The equipment has to come out by land, sea and air by December 31, 2014, the scheduled final departure date for most U.S. combat forces in the country.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/13/us-usa-afghanistan-withdrawal-idUSBRE98C05L20130913**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/13/us-usa-afghanistan-withdrawal-idUSBRE98C05L20130913)

**India**

**Deadly clashes trigger 10,000 ‘preventative arrests’ in rural India**

Indian authorities have arrested 10,000 people in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh in an attempt to curb religious violence that has claimed 38 lives, local media reports. Thousands of villagers are leaving the area after five days of violence. Clashes erupted in the Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday when tensions between Hindus and Muslims in the area spiraled out of control. As a result of the violence, at least 38 people were killed and 93 injured, while a further 10,000 people have fled the area and taken refuge in relief camps in the region. Poor villagers are living in fear after attackers torched properties and attacked children and law enforcement officers.

**RT -** [**http://rt.com/news/india-arrests-riots-religion-election-762/**](http://rt.com/news/india-arrests-riots-religion-election-762/)

**4 men given death sentences for gang rape**

An Indian court has sentenced to death the four men convicted in the December gang rape and murder of a young New Delhi woman, ordering them to the gallows for a brutal attack on a moving bus that left the young woman with such severe internal injuries that she died two weeks later. The death sentence, handed down Friday, must be confirmed by India's High Court. The men can appeal their case to the Supreme Court, and ask the president for clemency.  
**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/men-sentenced-india-fatal-gang-rape-20244452**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/men-sentenced-india-fatal-gang-rape-20244452)

**Nepal**

**Nepal to mobilize 155,000 security personnel during Nov. election**

The government of Nepal is preparing to mobilize some 155,000 security personnel so as to ensure high-level security during Constituent Assembly elections on Nov. 19, officials said Thursday. As per the plan, Nepal Police will contribute 50,000 security personnel, while the Armed Police Force will provide 20,000 security personnel. Some 45,000 Nepal Army personnel will have a crucial role in the overall security of the electoral booths and polling stations, while some 40,000 individuals will be hired as temporary police to prevent any security laxity. **Xinhua -** [**http://www.neurope.eu/news/wire/nepal-mobilize-155000-security-personnel-during-nov-election**](http://www.neurope.eu/news/wire/nepal-mobilize-155000-security-personnel-during-nov-election)

TACR

**Peru**

**Volcano prompts declaration of emergency**

Peru declared a state of emergency in nine districts threatened by the Ubinas volcano, which has erupted seven times since 1 September, spewing harmful gas and ash. Authorities are distributing masks and have given themselves a 60-day period to relocate villagers from areas where ash is damaging crops and polluting water sources. The explosions have sent a plume of smoke rising to 2,500 meters above the crater, according to volcanologists at the Geophysical Institute of Peru.   
**AFP** - [**http://www.france24.com/en/20130912-volcano-prompts-declaration-emergency-peru?ns\_campaign=editorial&ns\_source=RSS\_public&ns\_mchannel=RSS&ns\_fee=0&ns\_linkname=20130912\_volcano\_prompts\_declaration\_emergency\_peru**](http://www.france24.com/en/20130912-volcano-prompts-declaration-emergency-peru?ns_campaign=editorial&ns_source=RSS_public&ns_mchannel=RSS&ns_fee=0&ns_linkname=20130912_volcano_prompts_declaration_emergency_peru)

WCAR

**Across WCAR   
Video shows return of jihadist commander**

The one-eyed jihadist commander known as "Mr. Marlboro" is back in action. Moktar Belmoktar, whose group was responsible for the deadly attack on the BP oil facility in southern Algeria last January, appears in a new video released by his group -- the al-Mulathameen Brigade, which translates as the "Signatories in Blood Brigade." Thought to be about 40, Belmokhtar was rumored to have been killed or wounded in March during the French military intervention in Mali. But in the new 51-minute video he is shown training fighters and paying tribute to another jihadist commander who was killed earlier this year.   
**CNN** - [**http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/11/world/africa/mali-jihadist-leader/index.html**](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/11/world/africa/mali-jihadist-leader/index.html)

**After Mali, Niger battles to secure its borders**

The takeover of northern Mali by rebels after a 2012 coup, and the subsequent French-led intervention, have widened fears of a spill-over of insurgency in the region. Niger, which has socio-political problems comparable to those of Mali, is battling to secure its territory from militants still operating in Sahel's remote wilderness. Insecurity is an ever-present threat. The country suffered twin attacks on 23 May, when assailants struck a military base and a French-run uranium mine in the north, killing dozens. Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a prominent and long-time Sahel jihadist who had claimed responsibility for the Algerian gas plant attack in January, said his fighters were behind the strikes.

**IRIN** - [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98739**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98739)

**Benin**

**Floods due to heavy rains in neighbouring countries**

Heavy rains in Niger and Mali over August have affected Benin, with areas close to the Niger River, Malanville and Karimama, being severely flooded. The floods have washed away homes built of black earth, damaged farmlands and crops and endangered human lives; nearly 10,000 people have been displaced, more than 33,000 people have lost their homes, and over 21,000 hectares of crops have been destroyed. The population of the two mainly affected areas in northern Benin is approximately 200,000 people, but others are also at risk as more rains are predicted during the coming weeks.   
**CARE** - [**http://careinternation.ds7045.dedicated.turbodns.co.uk/news/stories-and-blogs/emergency-response/benin-floods-due-to-heavy-rains-in-neighbouring-countries.aspx**](http://careinternation.ds7045.dedicated.turbodns.co.uk/news/stories-and-blogs/emergency-response/benin-floods-due-to-heavy-rains-in-neighbouring-countries.aspx)

**CAR**

**Court jails 16 ex-rebels in 1st case**

A court in CAR has convicted 16 former rebels of pillaging and other crimes in the aftermath of this year's coup. Court President Abel Daouda sentenced each of the men to eight years in prison. It marked the first time that rebel fighters who helped overthrow the president had faced trial. However, five other defendants managed to escape before the ruling.The rebels who formed the coalition known as Seleka were blamed for widespread looting and violence in the days after President Francois Bozize fled after a decade in power.  
**AP** - [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/african-republic-jails-16-rebels-1st-case-20240662**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/african-republic-jails-16-rebels-1st-case-20240662)

**Crisis opens rift between Muslims, Christians**

As the security situation in the CAR continues to deteriorate, a new unsettling rivalry between Muslim and Christian communities has started to take hold. Under the shade of a thatched roof, George Fakida and his workers are making knives from scrap metal at a small workshop in the Boeing neighborhood of Bangui. He says business is going well these days, but a few weeks ago the shop was forced to shut down, when soldiers from the ruling rebel coalition Seleka raided the neighborhood, looking for fighters loyal to the former president. Residents say the soldiers forced them to hand over televisions, telephones, money and other valuables.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/car-crisis-opens-rift-between-muslims-christians/1748074.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/car-crisis-opens-rift-between-muslims-christians/1748074.html)

**Chad**

**Chadian hospitals report increased malaria cases - UNICEF mention**

In major hospitals in the Chadian capital and other towns, more malaria cases are being reported and the government has decided to distribute treated mosquito nets to save more people from contracting the disease. For the last two months, public and private hospitals and other health centers in N'Djamena have not ceased receiving an increased number of malaria patients, who have caused unprecedented overcrowding in hospitals. "We have observed an increased number of malaria patients, as well as those affected by the problem of hygiene," said Hassan Soukaya Youssouf, the secretary of the Chadian Public Health Ministry.

**Xinhua -** [**http://english.sina.com/2013/0912/627957.html**](http://english.sina.com/2013/0912/627957.html)

**DR Congo**

**Doubts lingers as DRC peace talks resume**

After months of delay, peace talks between the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and M23 rebels are back on, at the urging of regional leaders. But analysts remain sceptical that a truce can be achieved after more than a year and a half of intermittent fighting in eastern DRC's North Kivu Province. On 10 September, the two delegations met for the first time since the April, with Ugandan Defence Minister Crispus Kiyonga mediating. The talks had first kicked off in Dec 2012, under the auspices of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), but have broken down a number of times since then. M23 came into existence in April 2012, when hundreds of mainly ethnic Tutsi soldiers of the national army (FARDC), mutinied over poor living conditions and poor pay.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98741**](http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportID=98741)

**Defeat forced M23 into talks with Congo**  
Congolese and United Nations troops pushed back the M23 rebel group, forcing it back to the negotiating table and removing a threat to the city of Goma, the UN peacekeeping chief has said. Herve Ladsous on Thursday called the military action a "very significant achievement" that inflicted casualties on the M23 and likely led the rebels to resume talks with the government in neighboring Uganda's capital, Kampala. "The M23 group has been pushed back towards the north to such a place that it does not any more pose the direct threat that it had posed for such a long time either on the city of Goma'' or surrounding camps for displaced people and UN positions, the AFP news agency quoted him as saying.  
**AFP -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/20139131544816751.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/09/20139131544816751.html)

**UN deployment of surveillance drone delayed to December**

The unprecedented deployment of an unarmed surveillance drone by UN peacekeepers in the DR Congo has been delayed several months due to procurement procedures, the UN peacekeeping chief reported. The United Nations has procured an unarmed surveillance drone from Italian defense electronics firm Selex ES, a unit of Finmeccanica, that was due to be deployed in the eastern Congo during August. It will be the first time the United Nations has used such equipment and, if the trial surveillance use by peacekeepers in eastern Congo is successful, officials and diplomats also hope the drones could be used by missions in Ivory Coast and South Sudan.  
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/12/us-congo-democratic-un-idUSBRE98B17T20130912**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/12/us-congo-democratic-un-idUSBRE98B17T20130912)

**Guinea**

**Guinea opposition mulls new protests**

Guinea's opposition said they were considering new street protests following the expiry on Thursday of the 72-hour ultimatum they gave the government to fix the flaws they had identified in the roll of registered voters. Opposition spokesman Aboubacar Sylla said the country's election commission had given them the electoral list on a thumb drive but that is not what they sought. He said his coalition had demanded that the body publish the electoral list nationwide, so that voters could check if their names appear in their respective polling stations ahead of the Sept. 24 legislative election.   
**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/guinea-opposition-mulls-protests-153207932.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/guinea-opposition-mulls-protests-153207932.html)

**Mauritania**

**Services cut at refugee camp after looting**

An official with the UNHCR reported that food distribution and other services have been temporarily halted at a Mauritania camp housing 70,000 Malian refugees after more than 15 tons of food and other supplies were looted. Elise Villechalane reported that looting at Mberra camp occurred in the middle of a distribution cycle, leaving 16,000 people without rations. Camp officials are currently providing only "life-saving" health and water services. The camp is composed mostly of Arab and Tuareg refugees.

**AP** - [**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/09/mali-refugee-camp-gets-on\_n\_3895543.html**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/09/mali-refugee-camp-gets-on_n_3895543.html)

**Nigeria**

**Two dead after police station hit with bombs, RPGs**

Gunmen with explosives and rocket-propelled grenades attacked a police station in Nigeria's restive northeast, killing two officers and injuring another in an incident similar to previous raids by Islamist extremists, authorities said Thursday. "The heavily armed gunmen headed to the police station and burnt it down using IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and RPGs before engaging our men in a shootout in which we lost two officers while a third sustained gunshot wounds," Adamawa state police spokesman Mohammed Ibrahim told AFP. He said the attackers in cars and on motorcycles stormed Ga'anda village on Wednesday where they burnt down the police station with homemade bombs and grenades

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jsEpUE63zD1U\_Pq46jBiZWuEx1Mw?docId=CNG.c5b461c65c33994e6220ce3d79246914.61**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jsEpUE63zD1U_Pq46jBiZWuEx1Mw?docId=CNG.c5b461c65c33994e6220ce3d79246914.61)

**Floods ravage country, scores missing**

Nigerians are in panic as heavy flooding continues to ravage various parts of the country after several days of heavy rainfall, leaving hundreds of homes submerged and scores of people missing in Plateau State. There were numerous reports of missing persons and dead livestock in the Kanam local government area, where farmlands were reportedly washed away by heavy flooding. Parts of Kaduna State were also devastated by heavy rain, killing scores of people and destroying property, according to government officials who said efforts to come up with exact casualty figures were still underway. The Katsina State has also alerted residents of five local governments to brace for heavy rainfall between now and 19 September. The announcement, made by the State Information Ministry, urged those on river banks to relocate.   
**World Bulletin** - [**http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=117748**](http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=117748)

**Army says kills 10 Boko Haram Islamists in gunfight**

Nigerian soldiers have killed 10 members of Islamist sect Boko Haram in the volatile northeast, the military said on Thursday, as President Goodluck Jonathan pursues a four-month-old offensive against resilient insurgents. Over 230 people have been killed in violence linked to Boko Haram in the last six weeks, according to a Reuters count - one of the bloodiest periods since Jonathan declared a state of emergency and launched a military crackdown in three northeastern states in May. Boko Haram, which wants to impose strict Islamic law in northern Nigeria, is considered the biggest security threat to Africa's top oil exporter and second largest economy.  
**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-army-says-kills-10-boko-haram-islamists-115924657.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/nigerian-army-says-kills-10-boko-haram-islamists-115924657.html)

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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