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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**German hospital discharges Ebola patient from Sierra Leone**

A German hospital says a Ugandan doctor it treated after he contracted Ebola while working in Sierra Leone has been cured and discharged. Frankfurt's University Hospital said on 4 December that the man, whose name hasn't been released, was released in November and is now with his family. He was admitted in October and was critically ill for a time. The man is the second Ebola patient to be treated successfully in Germany. In early October, a scientist who was infected with Ebola while working for the WHO in Sierra Leone was discharged from a Hamburg hospital. The only other Ebola patient treated in Germany was a UN medical worker infected with Ebola in Liberia who died at a Leipzig hospital in mid-October.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/german-hospital-discharges-ebola-patient-27363642**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/german-hospital-discharges-ebola-patient-27363642)

**Food crises still a risk as grain stocks near a 15-year high**

Global grain stocks are heading for a 15-year high as the largest ever US corn harvest enters its final stages, but the risk of food shortages persists as demand for meat and biofuel keeps rising. Drought in major grain-producing countries in both 2007/08 and 2010/11 led to a sharp rise in food prices, plunging millions more people into poverty, sparking riots and playing a role in the overthrow of some governments. Cereal stocks have since been rebuilt and look set to climb to the highest level since the 1999/2000 season, according to the FAO. Global corn stocks are forecast by the US Department of Agriculture to reach 192 million tonnes by the end of the current season, not far from an all-time high of 205 million set 28 years earlier. But analysts warned that stocks could quickly be eaten up in the event of poor harvests. When the earlier record was set in 1987, it was enough corn to feed the world for 168 days. Current stocks would last only around 72 days, because consumption has more than doubled since then.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/grains-global-demand-idUKL6N0TA5I620141203**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/03/grains-global-demand-idUKL6N0TA5I620141203)

CEE/CIS

**Bosnia Herzegovina**

**Ex-paramilitaries arrested for notorious massacre**

Fifteen former Serb paramilitary fighters were arrested in dawn raids in Serbia and Bosnia on 5 December for the 1993 murder of 20 people, mainly Muslims, seized, tortured and killed as Yugoslavia fell apart in war. In the 1993 Strpci massacre, one of the most notorious of Yugoslavia's demise, the victims were forced off a train briefly crossing through Bosnia en route from Belgrade, to the Montenegrin port of Bar. The victims, mainly Muslims from Serbia and Montenegro, were taken to a school in the nearby town of Visegrad, where they were robbed and tortured before being executed in a burnt-out house. Their bodies were then tossed into the River Drina. A statement by the Serbian Interior Ministry said the victims comprised 18 Muslims, one ethnic Croat and another unidentified person. Ten people were arrested in Bosnia and five in Serbia in a coordinated morning swoop. The paramilitary group behind the massacre, known as the White Eagles, was led by Milan Lukic, one of only four people to have been sentenced to life imprisonment by the UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Lukic is best known for barricading 70 Bosniak men, women and children in a house in Visegrad before setting it on fire, in what became known as the Pionirska Street massacre. He shot anyone who tried to escape.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20141205105801-4kygt**](http://www.trust.org/item/20141205105801-4kygt)

**Serbia/Kosovo**

**UN urges speedy formation of new Kosovo government**

The UN envoy for Kosovo urged the parties to a power-sharing agreement to speedily form a new government, saying six months of political squabbling following elections in June has damaged the country. Farid Zarif told the UN Security Council on 4 December that the political standoff has also led to increased public dissatisfaction with political leaders, further delays in achieving needed reforms, and the resumption of a EU-facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. Kosovo's political stalemate following the June elections threatened to send the Balkan country into bankruptcy because its lawmakers have been unable to vote on a budget.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-urges-speedy-formation-kosovo-government-000453479.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-urges-speedy-formation-kosovo-government-000453479.html)

**Ukraine**

**Residential areas used as cover for attacks**

A top separatist commander in eastern Ukraine admitted on 4 December that rebels have mounted rocket attacks against government troops from within residential areas but says the practice is being halted. The Vostok Battalion commander said fighters using residential neighborhoods as for cover for shelling attacks will now face arrest, but he denied that the practice was commonplace. A large number of homes in the eastern city of Donetsk, a main rebel stronghold, have been hit by rockets believed to be fired by government troops responding to attacks by pro-Russian rebels. Separatists have accused government forces of attacking civilians indiscriminately. A video surfaced online this week showing rebels firing an intense barrage from a Grad multiple rocket launcher parked next to several high-rise apartment buildings. Ukrainian officials cited the amateur footage as evidence that separatists were using civilians as human shields. Outgoing rocket fire is heard daily in the center of Donetsk, a city that once held 1 million people before hundreds of thousands fled the fighting. Those attacks were especially intense this week.

**AP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-rebel-says-residential-areas-used-cover-173602443.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-rebel-says-residential-areas-used-cover-173602443.html)

**The approach of winter threatens thousands of displaced people**

Dozens of shivering and anxious men, women and children cluster in front of a special building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. Word of mouth have brought them to the Kharkivskaya Stantsya, one of a network of UNHCR-sponsored collective centres in Ukraine where aid workers distribute essential supplies to some of the 490,000 people uprooted by the fighting and forced to seek shelter elsewhere in the country. Although the scene of clashes earlier in the year between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian forces, Kharkiv has been calm since the end of April and is now a haven for many of the internally displaced. But it is not far from the conflict, which continues despite a ceasefire agreement in September.

**UNHCR -** [**http://www.unhcr.org/548085426.html**](http://www.unhcr.org/548085426.html)

**At least 1 soldier killed, 13 wounded as rebels intensify attacks**

At least one Ukrainian soldier was killed and 13 other wounded as independence-seeking insurgents intensified attacks on government positions, a military spokesperson said. "Over the past day, we documented a record intensity of shelling from Grad rocket launchers and a record number of attacks carried out by the gunmen," said the spokesperson for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council. And the Ukrainian forces repealed 71 insurgent attacks in the last 24 hours, he said. The fiercest fighting was raging around Donetsk airport as rebels launched a fresh offensive to capture the government-controlled facility, the spokesperson said, adding that Ukrainian forces still hold the airport.

**Xinhua -** [**http://english.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/international-military-news/2014-12/05/content\_6255756.htm**](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/news-channels/international-military-news/2014-12/05/content_6255756.htm)

**Government, pro-Russia rebels announce 9 December truce**

Ukraine and the pro-Russian rebels said on 4 December that they had agreed to halt fire on 9 December under the terms of a truce aimed at ending one of Europe's bloodiest conflicts in decades. The unexpected announcement provides the latest glimmer of hope that fighting across the east was nearing to a close after eight months that saw 4,300 people killed and shattered Moscow's ties with the West. The truce date disclosed by the Ukrainian President and two top separatist leaders was apparently agreed, but never disclosed, with the help of Russian and European envoys in Minsk, Belarus on 5 September. The Ukrainian President said Kiev had prepared "measures that should ensure the implementation of the Minsk Agreement concerning a Day of Silence that is due to begin on 9 December." A source in the Ukrainian President's office said the president's statement meant Ukraine would begin withdrawing heavy weapons from the eastern frontline on 10 December, as long as the separatists also observed the truce. Several truce deals announced in the course of the war were broken within days by both rebels and Ukrainian soldiers who refused to listen to their political leaders. The Swiss President and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) chairman also cautioned that "there are a number of different points that are not clear for the time being."

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-pro-russia-rebels-announce-december-9-truce-184709043.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-pro-russia-rebels-announce-december-9-truce-184709043.html)

**One civilian killed, one wounded in shelling in Donetsk**

Shells struck a residential district of the rebel stronghold of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine on 5 December, killing a pensioner and injuring his wife. The man, aged about 58, and his wife were returning home from picking up their pensions when the shells landed, spraying shrapnel that killed him. His wife was injured and taken to hospital while his dead body lay bleeding in the snow. In Kiev, the army said six soldiers had been killed and 14 wounded in the past 24 hours in clashes with separatists. A spokesperson said that separatist forces had also suffered "big losses" in three concerted attempts to break through Ukrainian positions, including at the international airport in the city of Donetsk, but had been beaten back.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/us-ukraine-crisis-donetsk-idUSKCN0JJ0ZO20141205**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/us-ukraine-crisis-donetsk-idUSKCN0JJ0ZO20141205)

EAP

**Philippines**

**Millions evacuate as typhoon Hagupit bears down**

Millions of people in the Philippines began seeking shelter in churches, schools and other makeshift evacuation centres on 5 December as a monster typhoon bore down on the disaster-weary nation. The storm, which would be the strongest to hit the Southeast Asian archipelago this year, is expected to impact more than half the nation including communities devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan last year. Authorities said more than 500,000 families, or about 2.5 million people, in the eastern Philippines would be evacuated ahead of Hagupit's expected landfall on 6 December night or 7 December. In Tacloban City, Leyte, which accounted for about half of the death toll from Haiyan, about 19,000 people from coastal villages thronged into 26 evacuation centres, said an official of the city's disaster office. "We are expecting to double that once we implement forced evacuations," he said, adding about 95% of residents from coastal areas have been evacuated. Tropical Storm Risk downgraded the typhoon to a category 4 on 5 December, a level below "super typhoon" but still a very powerful storm, and forecast it would have weakened to category 3 by the time it made landfall.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/millions-evacuate-as/1511924.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/millions-evacuate-as/1511924.html)

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-30324209**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-30324209)

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/uk-philippines-typhoon-idUKKCN0JJ04320141205**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/uk-philippines-typhoon-idUKKCN0JJ04320141205)

**Safeguarding children is UNICEF’s top priority as Typhoon Hagupit is predicted to hit**

Merely thirteen months after the coastal communities were ravaged by Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, they are facing another Super Typhoon, Hagupit (local name Ruby), as it is gaining strength to hit the Philippines within the next few days. UNICEF Philippines has activated full preparedness mode to assist children and families as Super Typhoon Hagupit moves northwest towards the northern part of Eastern Visayas. The UNICEF Tacloban Office that was established following Typhoon Haiyan is investing its 54-staff strong capacity in working with local government and partners on preparedness.

**UNICEF -** [**http://www.unicef.org/philippines/media\_23318.html**](http://www.unicef.org/philippines/media_23318.html)

**Thailand**

**Roadside attacks kill 3 people, injure 1**

Three people were killed and one wounded in a series of attacks in three provinces of the South. In Narathiwat, a woman was shot dead in tambon Bango Sato of Rangae district. Rangae's police and a forensics team found the woman's body with gunshot wounds to her head and back beside her black Suzuki motorcycle which had a Trang licence plate. Two spent 9mm cartridges were found at the scene. Witnesses told police the victim had travelled alone on her motorcycle heading for Tanyongmat market to buy food. Two men on a motorcycle followed her and the passenger pulled out a handgun and opened fire before speeding away. Police believed the attack was carried out by insurgents trying to provoke unrest in the area by gunning down civilians. In Pattani, police said that a former assistant village chief of tambon Paku, was shot dead in Ban Khao Din in Thung Yang Daeng district. Police said he was attacked while returning home alone on his motorcycle. In Yala, two men were attacked on a motorcycle along the Lammai-Lam Phraya road while returning to their homes in tambon Lam Phraya of Muang district. One man sustained two gunshot wounds to the head and was pronounced dead at the scene. The other suffered minor wounds after jumping from the bike to avoid bullets. Both men were village security volunteers.

**AFP -** [**http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/447400/roadside-attacks-kill-3-injure-1**](http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/447400/roadside-attacks-kill-3-injure-1)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**Fighting flares up after rains recede**

Government troops and South Sudanese rebels have been fighting for more than a week in a remote northern region of the country, a UN official said on 4 December, in the worst clashes since the rainy season receded in recent weeks. A spokesperson for the UN mission in South Sudan, said the UN had received reports of continuous clashes in Fangak county in Jonglei State. "The fighting has been going on for over a week there," he said. A monitoring team from the regional African IGAD bloc, put in place to monitor ceasefire violations, briefed the UN about clashes in Fangak this week. He called it the most sustained fighting in a single location since May. The warring factions renewed the ceasefire pact in May and signed another deal to halt fighting early in November but each time they have quickly collapsed.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-southsudan-fighting-idUSKCN0JI26420141204**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-southsudan-fighting-idUSKCN0JI26420141204)

**Zambia**

**Court rules on Patriotic Front presidential candidate after party rift**

Zambia's high court has declared Defense Minister Edgar Lungu the duly elected presidential candidate of the ruling Patriotic Front (PF), after a power struggle that has rocked the party ahead of next month's election shifted to the law courts. The decision, however, is unlikely to end the dispute as a rival presidential candidate said he would take the matter to the supreme court. The divisions in the PF could open the door to an opposition party candidate winning the 20 January election to succeed late president Michael Sata, an outcome that would create political uncertainty.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-zambia-elections-idUSKCN0JI0OD20141204?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-zambia-elections-idUSKCN0JI0OD20141204?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews)

LAC

**Guatemala**

**At least 4 children die of food poisoning**

Officials in Guatemala say four children between the ages of 3 and 7 have died from apparent food poisoning. A spokesperson for the national forensic sciences institute said that the cause of death was a still undetermined chemical. He said toxicology tests were underway. The victims all lived in a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Guatemala City. Volunteer firemen who responded to the emergency, said that a woman and another child were also taken to a hospital where they were recovering. The survivors told the first responders they had eaten instant soups found near a garbage dump.

**AP -** [**https://news.yahoo.com/4-children-die-poisoning-guatemala-200905447.html**](https://news.yahoo.com/4-children-die-poisoning-guatemala-200905447.html)

**Mexico**

**Police kill 6 kidnap suspects, free 2 victims**

Mexican police said they killed six members of a drug cartel and rescued two kidnap victims at a house in the state of Veracruz. The state police force said on 4 December that the suspects opened fire on members of an elite police unit during a raid on the house in the city of Poza Rica. Officers returned fire, killing the six suspects, the police statement said. Two kidnap victims were found inside the house and rescued unharmed, it said. The Zetas drug cartel has been active in the area in the past. However, government forces have also frequently been involved in lopsided confrontations with criminal suspects, in which all the suspects but no law enforcement personnel die. A similar confrontation in June in another state resulted in soldiers being charged with executing suspects.

**AP -** [**http://www.startribune.com/world/284798011.html**](http://www.startribune.com/world/284798011.html)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**WFP launches aid appeal**

After being forced to suspend food assistance to nearly 1.7 million Syrian refugees earlier this week, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Wednesday launched an "ambitious" 72-hour campaign to raise $64 million which will reinstate refugee food vouchers in December. The three-day campaign appeals to members of the public to donate $1 towards WFP's food aid for Syrian refugees, according to a statement e-mailed to The Jordan Times by the humanitarian aid agency.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/80000-syrian-refugee-children-to-receive-cash-assistance-under-unicef-winterisation-programme**](http://jordantimes.com/80000-syrian-refugee-children-to-receive-cash-assistance-under-unicef-winterisation-programme)

**80,000 Syrian refugee children to receive cash assistance under UNICEF winterisation programme**

UNICEF Jordan on Wednesday announced that up to 80,000 Syrian refugee children in Jordan will receive cash assistance under the agency's winterisation programme. The agency will provide 37,847 vulnerable Syrian children in the (0-12) age bracket in host communities with JD18 each to support their winter needs, according to a UNICEF statement sent to The Jordan Times. In addition, 41,000 children aged (0-14) years in the Zaatari Refugee Camp will receive JD14 each, and another 5,590 children in Azraq camp will receive the same amount of money. The cash will be available through the iris scanning system at bank ATMs across the country that has already been established by UNHCR, the statement said, adding that a total of 21,000 households will receive text messages on Wednesday to inform them about the money transfers to benefit their children.

**Jordan Times -** [**http://jordantimes.com/80000-syrian-refugee-children-to-receive-cash-assistance-under-unicef-winterisation-programme**](http://jordantimes.com/80000-syrian-refugee-children-to-receive-cash-assistance-under-unicef-winterisation-programme)

**Libya**

**Islamic State fighters set up training camps**

Islamic State militants have set up training camps in eastern Libya, the head of the US Africa command says. Gen David Rodriguez said there could be "a couple of hundred'' IS fighters undergoing training at the sites. He said the camps were at a very early stage, but the US was watching them "carefully to see how it develops".

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30323761**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30323761)

**Airstrike targets Tripoli outskirts as rival groups battle**

Forces allied to one of two rival governments vying for power in Libya conducted an airstrike near Tripoli on 4 December, officials and residents said, part of an ongoing struggle since a group seized the capital and set up its own cabinet.

**VOA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-air-strike-targets-triploi-outskirts-as-libya-rival-groups-battle/2545815.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-air-strike-targets-triploi-outskirts-as-libya-rival-groups-battle/2545815.html)

**Airstrike near border with Tunisia kills one person**

A local security official in a western Libyan town loyal to the militant-allied government in Tripoli, says a military airstrike targeted a border crossing with Tunisia, killing one person and wounding five. The security official of Zuwara town says the 5 December morning airstrike hit the border guards' office near the Ras Ajdir crossing. He says two of the wounded are in critical condition.

**AFP –** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Dec-05/280029-deadly-air-raid-hits-libya-militia-on-tunisia-border.ashx**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Dec-05/280029-deadly-air-raid-hits-libya-militia-on-tunisia-border.ashx)

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/libyan-airstrike-border-tunisia-kills-27386221**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/libyan-airstrike-border-tunisia-kills-27386221)

**State of Palestine**

**Israeli forces arrest 8-year-old in East Jerusalem**

Israeli Special Forces detained an eight-year-old Palestinian in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem, a local information center said. Majdi Abbasi of the Wadi Hilweh Information Center said in a statement that Obeida Ayesh, eight, was arrested in the Ein al-Lawza area of the neighborhood, Ma'an reported Wednesday. Obeida's mother was allowed to accompany him, Abbasi said. There were no clashes going on in the area at the time of the arrest, he added. Over the past decade, UNICEF noted that Israel has detained "an average of two children each day".

**MAAN -** [**http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=744671**](http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=744671)

**Sudan**

**UN team for talks on UNAMID `exit strategy`**

A UN team is in Sudan to discuss Khartoum`s call to shut down a UN-AU mission in Darfur that has been trying to investigate rape allegations involving Sudanese troops, the UN peacekeeping chief said Thursday. The team is holding talks on an "exit strategy" for the 16,000-strong force that was set up in 2007 to protect civilians and secure aid to Darfur, Herve Ladsous told the UN Security Council.

"It`s not about leaving tomorrow but rather about agreeing on a strategy," Ladsous said.

**AFP -** [**http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/un-team-in-sudan-for-talks-on-unamid-exit-strategy\_1509677.html**](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/un-team-in-sudan-for-talks-on-unamid-exit-strategy_1509677.html)

**Syria**

**IS attacks government airbase in the east**

Islamic State militants launched an attack overnight on a major military air base in eastern Syria in what looked to be a push to eliminate the last significant government outpost in the extremist-dominated region, activists said on 4 December. The airfield just outside the city of Deir el-Zour is a key military facility for the government, giving his warplanes a hub from which to bomb IS-held cities and towns across much of eastern Syria. For the Islamic State group, capturing the airport would eliminate the main pocket of resistance in the area and provide a major morale and propaganda boost after a string of setbacks in recent weeks. The assault against the air base began under the cover of darkness with a suicide car bombing against a Syrian military position on the airfield's outskirts, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attacks-government-airbase-eastern-syria-27357177?singlePage=true**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/attacks-government-airbase-eastern-syria-27357177?singlePage=true)

**Yemen**

**Saudi suspends aid to Yemen after Houthi takeover**

Saudi Arabia has suspended most of its financial aid to Yemen, Yemeni and Western sources said, in a clear indication of its dissatisfaction with the growing political power of Shi'ite Houthi fighters friendly with Riyadh's regional rival, Iran. A deal signed in September between political parties and the Houthis called for the formation of a new unity government followed by the Houthis' withdrawal from the capital. But even though the new government has been formed, Houthi fighters continue to man checkpoints around the city and guard many state institutions in Sanaa. "The Saudis have conditioned any aid on the implementation of the (deal). The Houthis have to leave before they pay," a senior Yemeni government official reported. Despite the suspension, Saudi Arabia this week announced $54 million in food relief for 45,000 families. A Western source said the Saudis were also still funding some development and infrastructure projects. But the source said the Saudis had stopped making other essential payments.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-yemen-saudi-aid-idUSKCN0JI10V20141204**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/us-yemen-saudi-aid-idUSKCN0JI10V20141204)

SA

**Across Region**

**Major gun battle near Kashmir border kills 17 people**

Militants in disputed Kashmir attacked an Indian army camp on 5 December, triggering a fierce gunbattle that left 11 Indian troops and six suspected assailants dead, officials said. Eight soldiers including a lieutenant colonel and three policemen were killed on the Indian side, along with six militants, police said. None of several rebel groups active in Kashmir issued any statement about the fighting, which erupted two days after a gunbattle broke out in the Handwara region. Six suspected rebels and one Indian army officer were killed. There has been a flurry of recent attacks, however, as the region holds local elections. Indian Prime Minister has visited twice in the last month, and is due to return on 8 December to give a campaign speech in Srinagar. Also on 5 December, government forces intercepted two suspected militants on the outskirts of Srinagar, leading to a brief exchange of gunfire, police said. One rebel was killed while the troops cordoned the area and were looking for the second suspect.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/skirmish-disputed-kashmir-border-kills-27382211**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/skirmish-disputed-kashmir-border-kills-27382211)

WCA

**Central African Republic**

**France begins withdrawing troops as UN deploys**

France is withdrawing troops from CAR as a UN peacekeeping force nears its full deployment, but will keep a presence to support the UN with a rapid reaction force, officials and diplomats said. France has 2,000 troops in the country after intervening a year ago to stem violence between militias and Seleka rebels, who took power. France's Sangaris troops and UN peacekeepers, who number about 7,500 now, have struggled to help a weak transitional government stamp its authority on the country. The head of the French force, said troops would being reduced in line with the UN increase, which is due to reach 10,000 by 30 April. Army officials said the reorganization would mean sending more military hardware such as Tiger attack helicopters and surveillance drones to enable troops to respond quickly to threats. French special forces are being deployed in the far-east and east of the country, where more radical elements of the Seleka rebels are based, to pave the way for Pakistani, Zambian and Moroccan battalions, sources said. MSF said on 4 December that the general situation remained "catastrophic."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-centralafrica-france-20141204-story.html**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-centralafrica-france-20141204-story.html)

**Clash kills four people, leaves several wounded**

Communal clashes have left four people dead and more than a dozen wounded at Bambari in the CAR, the UN mission MINUSCA has announced. The unrest in the town erupted after a motorcycle taxi driver was killed and his vehicle stolen, according to the paramilitary police. When the man's body was found by locals and recognized as that of a Peul (Fulani), a people who mainly profess Islam, Muslim residents launched reprisals against Christians.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/158016-u-n-clash-in-c-africa-kills-four-leaves-several-wounded**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/158016-u-n-clash-in-c-africa-kills-four-leaves-several-wounded)

**DR Congo**

**UN could reduce mission from 2015**

The UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the biggest in the world, said Thursday it could cut its presence from next year, despite continued bloodshed in the east of the country. Martin Kobler, the head of MONUSCO said "we could reduce our presence" from 2015 if the government's authority was restored. Already a delegation from UN headquarters in New York "has come to see how MONUSCO could reduce its forces, because the security situation in many places is getting better," Kobler said in an online chat session. However, the United Nations has expressed concern in recent weeks over a worsening of the situation in North Kivu province in the east, where numerous Congolese and foreign armed groups are active.

**AFP -** [**http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/un-could-cut-drc-mission-in-2015-1.1791025#.VIFSCmgo7cs**](http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/un-could-cut-drc-mission-in-2015-1.1791025#.VIFSCmgo7cs)

**Guinea**

**Youths protest against new Ebola clinic**

Dozens of youths in Conakry staged an angry protest against a new Ebola treatment centre on 4 December, halting the launch of the construction project, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. The Prime Minister was about to lay the symbolic first stone for the clinic when a crowd appeared, chanting slogans in Susu, a local language. "We do not want Ebola in our neighbourhood! We fear Ebola! Do not pollute our environment," they shouted. Guinean officials tried to talk down the ringleaders as the gathered dignitaries left, but the protesters escalated their demonstration, wrecking a gazebo, and scattering chairs and sound equipment. Representatives from MSF, which was slated to run the centre, were evacuated along with a few remaining dignitaries. A source from the charity said it would take advice from the government before deciding whether to proceed with the project.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/youths-protest-against-ebola-clinic-guinea-201312723.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/youths-protest-against-ebola-clinic-guinea-201312723.html)

**Liberia**

**UN Mission personnel tests positive for Ebola**

A member of UNMIL military personnel tested positive for the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on 3 December. The patient is receiving treatment at an Ebola Treatment Unit in Monrovia. UNMIL has taken immediate steps to prevent further transmission. In line with WHO protocols, the UNMIL Medical team has conducted immediate and robust contact tracing to ensure that all those who came into contact with the individual while he was symptomatic have been assessed and quarantined. Sixteen contacts have been identified to date. All areas where the individual is known to have been while symptomatic have been decontaminated. This is the third case of Ebola within the mission. One previous confirmed case and another probable case, which could not be confirmed, both resulted in the death of the staff members on 13 October and 25 September, respectively.

**Xinhua -** [**http://english.cntv.cn/2014/12/05/ARTI1417746315570133.shtml**](http://english.cntv.cn/2014/12/05/ARTI1417746315570133.shtml)

**Mali**

**Country receives first mobile lab for testing Ebola**

Mali has received its first mobile Ebola lab, which can be deployed to remote hotspots if needed. Mali has recorded eight cases, but since it shares a border with Guinea, officials want to prepare the country in the event it spreads further. The new lab, donated by Germany and unveiled on 4 December, could be used to test samples in remote hotspots in a few hours. Previously, samples had to be brought to Bamako, and a day was lost before results were known. Speedy tests are vital to containing Ebola because infected people get treated faster and non-infected people spend less time on wards where they might catch the disease.

**AP -** [**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2861358/Mali-receives-mobile-lab-testing-Ebola.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2861358/Mali-receives-mobile-lab-testing-Ebola.html)

**Nigeria**

**Boko Haram target French-owned cement works again in twin attack**

Boko Haram militants in Nigeria on 4 December stormed a French-owned cement works for the second time in as many months, as they attacked two towns in northeast of the country. The Islamists first struck in Bajoga, 60 kilometres from Gombe city, in a convoy of 20 vehicles before being pushed to Ashaka, where the plant owned by French group Lafarge is located. The latest raids suggested that Boko Haram fighters based in the Buni Yadi area of Yobe state may have been looking to replenish supplies.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/boko-haram-target-french-owned-cement-works-again-in-twin-attack-630065?ndtv\_nextstory**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/boko-haram-target-french-owned-cement-works-again-in-twin-attack-630065?ndtv_nextstory)

**Sierra Leone**

**Government says falls short of Ebola treatment target**

Sierra Leone confirmed on 4 December it was some way short of a key target to reduce the spread of Ebola by isolating almost three-quarters of patients in treatment beds. The WHO set a 60-day goal on 1 October to isolate 70% of Ebola patients in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone and ensure safe burials for 70% of bodies, which are highly infectious. But in Sierra Leone, only 60% of patients were in isolation by 1 December, the head of the government's Ebola response unit reported. "I think it was a good result, even though the 70% goal was not reached, because when the clock started ticking we were only just putting all logistical arrangements together," he said.

**AFP -** [**http://m.news24.com/nigeria/World/News/SLeone-says-falls-short-of-Ebola-treatment-target-20141204-2**](http://m.news24.com/nigeria/World/News/SLeone-says-falls-short-of-Ebola-treatment-target-20141204-2)

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